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Cover Photograph—Screech Owl, mouse-catching predator of the Carolinas. Photographed by Jack Dermid, Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The great increase in the number of bird sanctuaries, bird homes, bird baths and feeding stations everywhere is fine evidence of the growing public interest in the care and preservation of our wild song birds. Traveling through the towns and cities of North and South Carolina, it is highly gratifying to make these observations.

The Greenville Bird Club has joined the Lenoir Audubon Club in contributing to the endowment fund, being the second club to do this. This is a worthwhile move, and it is my hope that other clubs and individuals may see the advantage of establishing a substantial endowment fund. It will serve in the expansion of our conservation program.

Some of the South Carolina and Georgia schools are sponsoring the Audubon Screen Tours this year. Two programs have been presented here in Greenville, and a third group will present a program April 5th. These films and lectures are highly enjoyable and instructive, and with wider publicity will become more and more popular. I want to commend the schools and other organizations for sponsoring these educational programs, and bringing nature to us from distant and far away places.

In a former issue of the *Chat* I asked for information concerning camps or places that might be used for a CBC summer camp. I have recently had a letter from a member who thinks she has a 3 or 4-acre spot that might answer if we really want to go into such an undertaking. It is in the mountainous area and located on a river, which she describes as a lovely spot, with a variety of birds, and fine buildings of varying sizes. Such a venture will depend on the will of the club.

The Annual meeting is scheduled to be held in Winston-Salem about March 26th according to Dr. Merrill P. Spencer, President of the Winston-Salem Bird Club, which will be host club. Details of the meeting will be furnished through the News Letter. Let me urge all who can to attend. There will be good programs and interesting discussions.

Mrs. Cecil Appleberry is taking care of the plans for our Spring Field Trip to Wilmington May 13, 14, 15th. Past visits to that interesting city assure us all of a cordial welcome, with a large variety of land, shore and water birds to be seen. Make your plans to attend both of these meetings, which you will find well worth your time.

It is very gratifying to note the splendid way in which the regional leaders are organizing their groups, calendaring coming events, and gathering in members from small places to participate in their activities. In some cases there have been exchange dinners with good speakers. These interesting contacts make for finer and more enthusiastic bird club members, and result in greater expansion of our club work. All CBC members are invited and will be welcome to all of these occasions. I urge all members to line up with the group convenient to you.

I want to thank the regional leaders and all CBC officers, staff members, and committees for their fine cooperation this year.

—May W. Puett

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF *CAROLINA, FLORIDA and the BAHAMA ISLANDS:*

Containing the FIGURES of

BIRDS, BEASTS, FISHES, SERPENTS, INSECTS, and PLANTS:

Particularly, the FOREST-TREES, SHRUBS, and other PLANTS, not hitherto deſcribed, or very incorrectly figured by Authors.

Together with their DESCRIPTIONS in *Engliſh* and *French.*

To which, are added

OBSERVATIONS on the AIR, SOIL, and WATERS:

With Remarks upon

AGRICULTURE, GRAIN, PULSE, ROOTS, *&c.*

To the whole,

Is Prefixed a new and correct Map of the Countries Treated of.

BY

MARK CATESBY, F.R.S.

VOL. I.

HISTOIRE NATURELLE DE *La CAROLINE, la FLORIDE, & les ISLES BAHAMA:*

Contenant les DESSEINS

Des OISEAUX, ANIMAUX, POISSONS, SERPENTS, INSECTES, & PLANTES.

Et en particulier,

Des ARBRES des Forets, ARBRISSEAUX, & autres PLANTES, qui n'ont point été decrits, juſques à preſent par les Auteurs, ou peu exactement deſſinés.

Avec leur Deſcriptions en François & en Anglois.

A quoi on a adjouté,

Des Obſervations ſur l'Air, le Sol, & les Eaux,

Avec des Remarques ſur l'Agriculture, les Grains, les Legumes, les Racines, *&c.*

Le tout eſt precedé d'une CARTE nouvelle & exacte des Païs dont ils s'agiſt.

Par *MARC CATESBY*, de la Societé Royale.

TOME I.

LONDON:

Printed at the Expence of the AUTHOR: and Sold by W. INNYS and R. MANBY, at the Weſt End of St. *Paul's*, by Mr. HAUKSBEE at the *Royal Society* Houſe, and by the AUTHOR, at Mr. BACON's in *Hoxton:*

MDCCXXXI.

THE PREFACE TO CATESBY'S NATURAL HISTORY

B. R. Chamberlain

The first edition of Mark Catesby's Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands appeared in 1731 - 34 in two volumes, Folio, containing engraved and hand colored plates of "Birds, Beasts, Fishes, Serpents, Insects, and Plants." Second and third editions appeared in 1754 and 1771, respectively. The text consists largely of data describing the figures. A summary of the author's purposes, his travels, and methods, is presented in the preface to the first edition, reproduced here in its entirely. Spelling, punctuation, and typesetting errors have been painstakingly copied from the original work in the Duke University Library by Rhett Chamberlain, Jr., a graduate of the University. For greater ease in reading, the old style long s's have here been changed throughout. Thus, " --- I foon imbibed a paffionate defire ---" *in the original, becomes,* "--- I soon imbibed a passionate desire ---," *etc. The accompanying reproduction of the title page to volume one has been made possible through the generosity of the Catesby Bird Club, of High Point, N. C.*

The early Inclination I had to search after Plants, and other Production in Nature, being much suppressed by my residing too remote from *London*, the Center of all Science, I was deprived of all Opportunities and Examples to excite me to a stronger Pursuit after those Things to which I was naturally bent: yet my Curiosity was such, that not being content with contemplating the Products of our own Country, I soon imbibed a passionate Desire of viewing as well the Animal as Vegetable Productions in their Native Countries; which were Strangers to *England*. *Virginia* was the Place (I having Relations there) suited most with my Convenience to go to, where I arriv'd the 23d. of *April* 1712. I thought then so little of prosecuting a Design of the Nature of this Work, that in the Seven Years I resided in that Country, (I am ashamed to own it) I chiefly gratified my Inclination in observing and admiring the various Productions of those Countries, —— only sending from thence some dried Specimens of Plants and some of the most Specious of them in Tubs of Earth, at the Request of some curious Friends, amongst whom was Mr. *Dale* of *Braintree* in *Essex*, a skilful Apothecary and Botanist; to him, besides Specimens of Plants, I sent some few Observations on the Country, which he communicated to the late *William Sherard*, L.L.D. one of the most celebrated Botanists of this Age, who favoured me with his Friendship on my Return to *England* in the Year 1719; and by his Advice, (tho conscious of my own Innability) I first resolved on this Undertaking, so agreeable to my Inclination. But as Expences were necessary for carrying the Design, I here most gratefully acknowledge the Assistance and Encouragement I received from several Noble Persons and Gentlemen, whose Names are here undermention'd.

His Grace the Duke of Chandois.
The Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Oxford.
The Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Macclesfield.
The Right Honourable John Lord Percival.

Sir George Markham, Bar^{t}. F.R.S.
Sir Henry Goodrick, Bar^{t}.
Sir Hans Sloane, Bar^{t}. President of the Royal Society, and of the College of Physicians.
The Honourable Colonel Francis Nicholson, Governor of *South Carolina*.
Richard Mead, M.D. and F.R.S.
Charles Dubois, Esq; F.R.S.
John Knight, Esq. F.R.S.
William Sherard, L.L.D. and F.R.S.

With this Intention, I set out again from *England*, in the Year 1722, directly for *Carolina*; which country, tho' inhabited by *English* above an Age past, and a Country inferior to none in Fertility, and abounding in Variety of the Blessings of Nature; yet it's Productions being very little known except what barely related to Commerce, such as Rice, Pitch and Tar; was thought the most proper Place to search and describe the Productions of: Accordingly I arrived in *Carolina* 23d. of *May* 1722, after a pleasant tho' not a short Passage. In our Voyage we were frequently entertain'd with Diversions not uncommon in crossing the *Atlantick* Ocean, as catching of Sharks, strikeing of Porpuses, Dolphins, Bonetoes, Albicores and other Fish; which three last we regaled on when Fortune favoured us in catching them; and even the Flesh of Sharks and Porpuses would digest well with the Sailors, when long fed on Salt Meats. The Pursuit of Dolphins after Flying-Fish, was another Amusement we were often diverted with; the Dolphins have raised the Flying-Fish, by the swiftness of their Swimming, keep Pace with them, and pursue them so close that the Flying-Fish at length tired, and their Wings dry'd, and thereby necessitated to drop in the Water, often fall into the Jaws of their Pursuers; at some Times neither Element aford them Safety, for no sooner do they escape their Enemies in the Water, but they are caught in the Air by voracious Birds. But what seem'd most remarkable of this Kind, was that in the Latitude of 26 Degrees North, about the Midway between the two Continents of *Africa* and *America*, which I think cannot be less than 600 Leagues, an Owl appear'd hovering over our Ship; these Birds have short Wings, and have been observed not to be capable of long Flights, it being a common Diversion for Boys to run them down after the second or third Flight This Owl after some Attempts to rest, disappear'd; and the same Day being the 22d. of *March*, an Hawk with a white Head, Brest, and Belly appear'd in like Manner, and the Day after, some Swallows appear'd, but none ventur'd to alight on any Part of the Ship. No Birds seem more able to continue long on their Wings, than Hawks and Swallows; but that an Owl should be able to hold out for so long a Flight, is to me most surprising.

Upon my arrival at *Charles Town*, I waited on General *Nicholson*, then Governour of that Province, who received me with much Kindness, and continued his Favours during my Stay in that Country. Nor could I excuse my self of Ingratitude without acknowledging the hospitable and kind Entertainment I generally met with amongst the Gentlemen of the Country, which much contributed to the Facilitating the Work I went about.

As I arrived at the beginning of the Summer I unexpectedly found

this Country possessed not only with all the Animals and Vegetables of *Virginia*, but abounding with even a greater Variety. The inhabited Parts of *Carolina* extend West from the Sea about 60 Miles, and almost the whole Length of the Coast, being level, low Country. In these Parts I continued the first Year searching after, collecting and describing the Animals and Plants. I then went to the Upper uninhabited Parts of the Country, and continued at and about *Fort Moore*, a small Fortress on the Banks of the River *Savanna*, which runs from thence a Course of 300 Miles down to the Sea, and is about the same Distance from its Source, in the Mountains.

I was much delighted to see Nature differ in these Upper Parts, and to find here abundance of Things not to be seen in the Lower Parts of the Country; this encouraged me to take several Journeys with the *Indians* higher up the Rivers, towards the Mountains, which afforded not only a Succession of new vegetable Appearances, but most delightful Prospects imaginable, besides the Diversion of Hunting Buffello's, Bears, Panthers, and other wild Beasts. In these Excursions I employ'd an *Indian* to carry My Box, in which, besides Paper and Materials for Painting, I put dry'd Specimens of Plants, Seeds, Etc.———as I gather'd them. To the Hospitality and Assistance of these Friendly Indians, I am much indebted, for I not only subsisted on what they shot, but their First Care was to erect a Bark Hut, at the Approach of Rain to keep me and my Cargo from Wet.

I shall next Proceed to an account of the Method I have observed in giving the Natural History of these Countries; To begin therefore with Plants, I had principally a Regard to Forest-Trees and Shrubs, shewing their several Mechanical and other Uses, as in Building, Joynery, Agriculture, and others used for Food and Medicine. I have likewise taken notice of those Plants, that will bear our English Climate, which I have experienced from what I have growing at Mr. *Bacon's*, Successor of the late Mr. *Fairchild* at Hoxton, where many have withstood the Rigour of several Winters, without Protection, while other Plants, tho' from the same Country, have perished for the Want of it.

There being a greater Variety of the feather'd Kind than of any other Animals (at least to be come at) and excelling in the Beauty of the Colours, besides having oftenest relation to the Plants on which they feed and frequent; I was induced chiefly (so far as I could) to compleat an Account of them, rather than to describe promiscuously, Insects and other Animals; by which I must have omitted many of the Birds, for I had not Time to do all, by which Method I believe very few Birds have escaped my Knowledge, except some Water Fowl and some of those which frequent the Sea.

Of Beasts there are not many Species different from those in the old World, most of these I have Figur'd, except those which do not materially differ from the same Species in *Europe*, and those which have been described by other Authors.

Of Serpents very few I believe have escaped me, for upon shewing my Designs of them to several of the most intelligent Persons, many of them confess'd not to have seen them all, and none of them pretended to have seen any other kinds.

Of Fish I have described not above Five or Six from *Carolina*, deferring that Work till my Arrival at the *Bahama* Islands; which as they afford but few Quadrupeds and Birds, I had more Time to describe the Fishes, and tho' I had been often told that they were very remarkable, yet I was surprised to find how lavishly Nature had adorn'd them with Marks and Colours most admirable.

As for Insects these Countries abound in numerous kinds, but I was not able to delineate a great Number of them for the Reasons already assign'd: After my Continuance almost three Years in *Carolina* and the adjacent parts (which the *Spaniards* call *Florida*, particularly that Province lately honour'd with the name of *Georgia*) I went to *Providence*, one of the *Bahama* Islands; to which Place I was invited by his Excellency *Charles Phinney*, Esq; Governour of those Islands, and was entertain'd by him with such Hospitality and Kindness: From thence I visited many of the adjacent Islands, particularly *Ilathera*, *Andros*, *Abbacco* and other neighbouring Islands; tho' these rocky Islands produce many fine Plants, which I have here described; I had principally a Regard to the Fish, there being not any, or a very few of them described by any Author: Both in *Carolina* and on these Islands, I made successive Collections of dry'd Plants and Seeds, and at these Islands more particularly I collected many Submarine productions, as Shells, Corallines, Fruitices Marini, Sponges, Astroites, Etc. These I imparted to my curious Friends, more particularly (as I had the greatest Obligations) to that great Naturalist and promoter of Science Sir *Hans Sloane*, Bar^{t}. to whose goodness I attribute much of the Success I had in this Undertaking.

As I was not bred a Painter I hope some faults in Perspective, and other Niceties, may be more readily excused, for I humbly conceive Plants, and other Things done in a Flat, tho' exact manner, may serve the Purpose of Natural History, better in some Measure than in a more bold and Painter like Way. In designing the Plants, I always did them while fresh and just gather'd; and the Animals, particularly the Birds, I painted them while alive (except a very few) and gave them their Gestures peculiar to every kind of Bird, and where it would admit of, I have adapted the Birds to those Plants on which they fed or have any relation to. Fish which do not retain their Colours when out of their Element, I painted at different times, having a succession of them procur'd while the former lost their Colours: I dont pretend to have had this advantage in all, for some kinds I saw not plenty of, and of others I never saw above one or two: Reptiles will live many months without Sustenance, so that I had no difficulty in Painting them while living.

At my return from *America*, in the Year 1726, I had the Satisfaction of having my Labours approved of, and was honour'd with the Advice of several of the above-mention'd Gentlemen, most skilled in the Learning of Nature, who were pleased to think them worth Publishing, but that the Expence of Graving would make it too burthensome an Undertaking, this Opinion, from such good Judges, discouraged me from attempting it any further; And I alter'd my Design of going to *Paris* or *Amsterdam* where I at first proposed to have them done. At length by the kind Advice and Instructions of that inimitable Painter Mr. *Joseph Goupy*, I undertook and was initiated in the way of Etching them myself,

which, tho' I may not have done in a Graver-like manner, choosing rather to omit their method of cross-Hatching, and to follow the humour of the Feathers, which is more laborious, and I hope has proven more to the purpose.

The Illuminating Natural History is so particularly Essential to the perfect understanding of it, that I may aver a clearer Idea may be Conceiv'd the Figures of Animals and Plants in their proper Colours, than from the most exact Description without them: Wherefore, I have been less prolix in the Discription, Judging it unnecessary to tire the Reader with describing every Feather, yet I hope sufficient to distinguish them without Confussion.

As to the Plants I have given them the *English* and *Indian* Names they are known by in these Countries: And for the *Latin* Names I was beholden to the above-mention'd Learned and accurate Botanist Dr. *Sherard.*

Very few of the Birds having Names assign'd them in the Country, except some which had *Indian* Names; I have call'd them after *European* Birds of the same Genus, with an additional Epithet to distinguish them. As the Males of the Feather'd Kind (except a very few) are more elegantly colour'd than the Females, I have throughout exhibited the Cocks only, except two or three; and have added a short Description of the Hens, wherein they differ in colour from the Cocks, the want of which Method has caused great Confusion in works of this Nature.

Of the Paints, particularly Greens, used in the Illumination of Figures, I had principally a regard to those most resembling Nature, that were durable and would retain their Lustre, rejecting others very specious and shining, but of an unnatural Colour and fading Quality: Yet give me leave to observe there is no Degree of Green but what some Plants are possess'd of at different Times of the Year, and the same Plant changes it's colour gradually with it's Age, for in the Spring the Woods and all Plants in General are more Yellow and bright, and as the Summer advances the Greens grow deeper, and the nearer their Fall are yet of a more dark and dirty Colour. What I infer from this is that by comparing a Painting with a living Plant, the difference of colour, if any may proceed from the above-mention'd Cause.

As to the *French* Translation I am oblig'd to a very ingenious Gentleman, a Doctor of Physick, and a *French-man* born, whose Modesty will not permit me to mention his Name.

CBC Mid-Winter Field Trip

The Summerton meeting was great fun! The Wades were nearly overcome by the weather, but they just made it Saturday afternoon in time to identify a Tree Sparrow with Jim Stephens on hand. Jim was our guest speaker and gave us an illuminating talk on his hobby, the rearing of wild ducks. We were honored by E. von S. Dingle who gave CBCer's a preview of his new series of paintings. Saturday evening Mrs. Louise Barrington talked about birds around her feeders and showed colored slides she had taken. All those members who were *in absentia,* missed a splendid flock of Canada Geese, two Blue Geese and large concentrations of ducks and a very good time. About 75 members and guests chalked up 84 species. Mr. Lemaire and Mr. Holland of the Santee Refuge were our hosts and leaders. We were delighted to see Mr. and Mrs. Harold Peters from G.O.S.—*Ed.*

CAROLINA BIRD NAMES—Last Installment

W. L. McAtee

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. **Rain crow**(Universal). See preceding note. **Wood hen**(N). As a sizable, sometimes noisy, bird of the woodland.

BARN OWL. **Barn owl**(N,S). From nesting in barn lofts; a British folk name. **Cat owl**(N). From attacking silently, like a cat. **Degati owl**(S). Gullah; the first term in the language of the Wolof tribe of Senegal and Gambia, Africa, meaning "hear it again," is applied to an owl that hoots frequently near a house. Lorenzo D. Turner. **Love-swindle**(S). Meaning unknown. **Monkey-face**(N,S). The heart-shaped facial disk being likened to that of a monkey. **Monkey-faced owl**(General). See preceding note. **Poker-face**(S). Probably substitution of a familiar phrase for monkey-face. **Rat owl**(S). A fitting name; the bird is a good ratter. **White owl**(N). From mottled-grayish to whitish, the bird fairly deserves this name, which is applied to it also in Great Britain.

SCREECH OWL. **Cat owl**(N). The head silhouette, with feather tufts (or "ears"), may suggest this name; or the reason may be that proposed for the preceding species, one in fact that fits all owls. **Death owl**(S). Its cries near a house are supposed to presage death. **Little screech owl**(N). "Screech" should not be a primary association with this species as it rarely screeches; the note most often heard is a soft, tremulous whistle, which to my ears is a musical and welcome sound. **Screech owl**(General). See preceding note. **Scrench owl, scrinch owl**(S), **scrutch owl**(N). These adjectives are variants of "screech"; see second preceding note. **Shivering owl**(N,S). From the effect of its calls on superstitious auditors. **Squinch-eye**(N). Perhaps because the eyes are "squinched" or only partially opened when the owl is disturbed in daylight. **Squinch owl**(N,S). Here "squinch" is conceived to be a corruption of "screech"; see note on "little screech owl", *ante*.

GREAT HORNED OWL. **Cat owl**(General). Two theories: from the crown tufts suggesting ears and thus the outline of a cat's head; or from its pouncing on its prey as silently as a cat. **Chicken owl**(S). It preys on chickens not housed at night. **Cuckatoo, cuckatoo owl**(S). The adjetive is a Gullah, and evidently sonic, term. **Higguhri-hee**(S). Gullah, tracing in part to the word "hihe" = owl in the Vai language of Liberia, Africa. Lorenzo D. Turner. **Hixaguinny**(S). Possibly a variant of the preceding term. **Hawn owl**(S). For horn owl in reference to the tufts of feathers each side of the crown. **Hooting owl**(N). A good name; the typical cry is a series of "hoo"s. **Marsh owl**(N). It is rather a woodland species. **Night owl**(N). An appropriate name for most owls. **Who-Who owl**(S). See note on hooting owl.

BARRED OWL. **Hixaguinea**(S). See note on similar term under the preceding species. **Hoot owl**(General), **hooting owl**(N,S). The common cry is a series of "hoo"s. **Laughing owl**(N). In reference to the "who are you" part of its cry, heard as ha-aw-ah—an uncanny laugh. **Night owl**(S). See under preceding species. **Swamp owl**(General for the Florida barred owl). A good habitat name.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. For this bird, the question arises as to what is a name, what an attempted syllabilization of its notes. Apparently no line can be drawn, and as the standard name is sonic and fairly long, others are given which may seem to be too long to be names. **Chick-a-willa, chick-de-willow, chick-will-willo**(S). **Chip-fell-out-of-a-white-oak**(N). **Chip-the-red-oak-white-oak**(S). **Chuck**(S). The bird utters this sound separately as well as in its longer calls. **Chuck-de-willer**(S). **Chuck-will's-widow**(N,S). **Chuck-willuh**(S). **Dutch whip-poor-will**(S). As a distinguishable kind of whip-poor-will, perhaps one with a brogue. **East India bat**(N,S). "Bat" from its nocturnal habit, "East India" to distinguish it from the Virginia bat or whip-poor-will. **Musqueto hawk**(Carolina, Lawson, 1714). Through confusion with the nighthawk, which may take insects as small as mosquitoes as food, while this bird does not. **Nightjar**(S).

British provincial name of an allied bird transferred to our species. It alludes to "the strange, whirring, jarring noise, something like that produced by a spinningwheel, uttered by the bird on summer evenings" (Swainson,1886) and thus does not describe the call of our bird at all. **Twixt-hell-and-white-oak**(N). **Whip-poor-will**(S). From the similarity of its habits to those of the bird whose notes have suggested that name. **Will's-widow**(N).

WHIP-POOR-WILL. **Bull-bat**(N,S). From confusion with the nighthawk; see note under next species. **Whip-poor-will**(General). Sonic.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK. **Bull-bat**(General). From the sound made by its wings when dropping through the air, which is likened to the bawling of a bull; "bat" as a nocturnal flier. **Mosquito hawk**(S). It preys upon small insects, including mosquitoes. **Moth hunter**(N). It captures small moths; but is not so great a consumer of moths (nor of such large size) as are its two relatives above treated. **Nighthawk**(General). From its nocturnal and expert flight. **Sky-darter**(S). As an expert, and high, flyer.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. **Chimney bat**(S). From its nesting place, erratic flight, and nocturnal activity. **Chimney martin**(S). In allusion to its nesting place and expert flight. **Chimney swallow**(General). Same note. **Chimney-sweep**(General). As a frequenter of chimneys, using a once-familiar name for human chimney cleaners. **Chimney-sweeper**(N,S). See preceding note.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. **Bumble-bee**(N). From its small size and buzzing wings. **Flower bird**(N,S). It visits flowers in search of both nectar and insects. **Hominy bird**(N). Apparently a corruption of humming bird. **Hummingbird**(General). From the sound made by its buzzing wings. **Whizzer**(N). Same note; from its swift flight; or both.

BELTED KINGFISHER. **Diver**(S). It plunges into water to capture its prey. **Fish hawk**(N). As a predator upon fishes. **Kingfish**(N). Short for kingfisher. **Kingfisher**(General). As an accomplished fisher. **Kingfisherman, kingfishman**(N). Personified as an expert fisher.

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. **Flicker**(General). Sonic. **Whicker-whacker**(N). Elaboration of whicker and thus partially a sonic term. **Wood-picker**(N). That is, woodpecker. **Yellow-hammer**(Universal). British folk name of the yellow bunting transferred to species with yellow in their plumage, wherever the English have colonized.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. **Black Cock**(N). Probably a shortening of black logcock or black woodcock; see those names, without the adjective. **Do lord**(S). See note on logcock. **Giant woodpecker**(N). The largest species now living there. **Good god**(General). See note on logcock. **Good-god bird**(N,S). See same note. **Great god**(N). The same. **Indian crow**(S). A wild, chiefly black, bird of crow size. **Indian hen**(N.S). A wild "hen" or large bird with, perhaps, some reference to its cackling calls. **Johnny Cock**(S). A familiar or "pet" term joined to the usual "cock", a shortening of logcock or woodcock. **Logcock**(General). As a striking bird frequenting trees. A series of names, apparently including that of the Deity, have no such reference, except secondarily; primarily they trace to the term "logcock", which, corrupted to "log guard" and "lord god," gave rise through misunderstanding or elaboration to all of the others. **Lord god**(General). See preceding note. **Old Kate**(S). Latter term seems to be derived from "Kent", a sonic name of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, "inherited" by the present species. **Old Kin**(S). Corruption of the preceding name. **Pepper-hen**(S). Application unknown. **Poor John**(S). A familiar or "pet" name. **Red-headed good god**(N). The forehead and crest are poppy-red; see note on "logcock". **Red-headed woodcock**(N). See preceding note and that on woodcock. **Sapsucker**(S). A general term for woodpeckers, which is strictly applicable, however, to only one species (the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker) of the eastern United States. **Swamp Kate**(S). Swamps are a frequent habitat; see note on "old kate". **Woodchuck**(N). As a woodland creature that utters a "chuck" note; a name for the woodpeckers, rather widely distributed in the United States. **Woodchuck**

bird(S). See preceding note. **Woodcock**(General). As a striking bird frequenting woodland. **Wood hen**(N,S). As a large bird of the woods, with perhaps some reference to its cackling calls. **Wook Kate**(S). See note on "old Kate".

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. **Bandana**(S). Conspicuously colored like a bandana handkerchief. **Jam-jack**(S). Sonic. **Red-headed sapsucker**(S). The top of the head of the male from forehead to nape is poppy-red or scarlet; "sapsucker" a popular synonym for woodpecker is a misnomer, only one of our species, the yellow-bellied, deserving the name. **Red-headed woodpecker**(S). See first part of the preceding note. **Zebra woodpecker**(S). The back is conspicuously black and white barred.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. **Black, white, and red woodpecker**(S). A good name, as it has those colors in large masses. **Half-jacket**(S). The black coloration does not cover the lower part of the back. **Half-shirt**(S). The white coloration covers only the lower part of the back. **Redhead**(General). The entire head and neck are bright crimson. **Red-head shirt-tail**(S). See notes on these terms separately. **Red, white, and blue woodpecker**(N,S). Its colors, in large areas, are red, white, and blue-black. **Shirt-tail, shirt-tail woodpecker**(N,S). The white coloration of the secondary wing-feathers, the rump, and the tail coverts, suggest an exposed shirt-tail. **White-shirt**(S). Enough of the plumage is white to suggest a shirt of that color.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. **Red-headed woodpecker**(N). The throat and forehead (to crown) of male are crimson. **Sapsucker**(General). This woodpecker makes holes in bark which it revisits to drink sap. **Suck-sap, sup-sap**(N). See preceding note. **Yankee sapsucker**(N). From the north; see note on sapsucker.

HAIRY WOODPECKER. **Sapsucker**(S). A misnomer; only one of our woodpeckers is a sapsucker; see note on that term under the preceding species.

DOWNY WOODPECKER. **Checkerback, checkerbacker**(N). A misnomer; the back is white; however, the wings are black "checkered" with white. **Little sapsucker**(General). See note on sapsucker. **Sapsucker**(General). Though universally employed as a synonym for woodpecker, this is in most cases a misnomer; only one of our species, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, at all deserves the name.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER. **Pate**(S). Sonic; hearing of a call recorded also as caip, kate, kent, and kient. **Pearl-bill**(S). The bill is ivory-white.

EASTERN KINGBIRD. **Bee-Betty**(S). The term "bee" refers to the bird's feeding on honeybees; Betty is a familiar or "pet" name. **Bee-bird, bee martin**(General). It feeds to some, though usually not to a dangerous, extent on honeybees. **Flycatcher**(N). As feeding upon insects. **Kingbird**(Rather general). In allusion to its dominating habit of driving other, and often larger, birds away from its nesting territory. **Martin bird**(N). In the bird world, the name "martin" seems to belong primarily to a swallow, the house martin of Europe, but it has also become almost a synonym for swallow. Our Purple Martin gets the name in that way; and the Kingbird may have received it from a vague resemblance in some respect to that species.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER. **Bee martin**(N). See note on that name under the preceding species; there is less reason for applying it to this one. **Corn crake**(S). The latter sonic term may have attracted "corn" from a literarily familiar bird name, which, however, has no application to the present species. **Daybreak**(N). Probably has reference to early calling but may be partly sonic. **Dead-limb bird**(S). From a favorite perch or nesting site. **Flycatcher**(N). As preying upon insects. **Frate**(S). Sonic. **French mockingbird**(N). Applied with reason to the Brown Thrasher, this name seems to have no fitness for the greatcrest. **May bird**(S). From the month in which it comes to attention. **Noisy bird**(S). A loud and persistent caller. **Rake bird**(S). First term sonic. **Scream bird**(S). Its ordinary call may legitimately be called a scream. **Whistler**(S). **Yellowhammer**(N). The belly and tail feathers are, in part, yel-

low, as good excuse for application of this name as to the Flicker, which see. **Yellow screamer**(S). See preceding note and that on scream bird.

EASTERN PHOEBE. **Bridge robin**(S). As a familiar bird associated with bridges; it often nests beneath them. **Bridge swallow**(S). See preceding note; swallow, perhaps, from association with true swallows, which share the habitat. **Cow bird**(N). From attending cows to catch insects attracted, or flushed, by those animals. **Gnatcatcher**(S). As preying upon small insects. **House pewee**(N). It sometimes nests in suitable niches about houses; "pewee" sonic. **Pewee**(General). Sonic. **Phoebe, phoebe bird**(Rather general). Sonic; from a more accurate hearing of the same note. **Tick bird**(S). Its familiarity with cattle suggests that it is in search of ticks; these parasites have been found in Phoebe stomachs. **Winter Pewee**(N). "Pewee" sonic; the only flycatcher to winter here. **Witch bird**(N). Meaning unknown.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE. **Dead-limb bird**(S). From a favorite perch. **Moss pewee**(N). Mosses are used in construction of the nest; pewee, sonic. **Parvee**(S). Either directly sonic or a corruption of "pewee". **Pewee**(S). Sonic.

HORNED LARK. **Skylark**(N). It resembles the European skylark in singing on the wing.

TREE SWALLOW. **Bad-weather bird**(S). Its appearance thought to presage worse weather. **Myrtle bird**(N). In winter, especially, it feeds on berries of wax myrtle (*Myrica*).

BANK SWALLOW. **Bad-weather bird**(N). See under preceeding species. **Bank bird**(N). It nests in holes in banks. **Bank martin**(S). See preceding note; martin-swallow. **Bank swallow**(General). See second preceding note. **Gully martin, gully swallow** (S). It nests in burrows in banks. **Gust bird**(N). From being especially active before storms. **Sand martin, sand swallow**(General). The swallow that nests in "sand", that is, the ground; these names in British use to Merrett, 1667, and Pennant, 1785, respectively. **Storm bird**(N). See note on gust bird. **Water swallow**(N). As being usually seen near the water; also in British use.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. **Bank martin**(S). It may nest in holes in banks. **Bank swallow**(N). Same note. **Black swallow**(S). Mishearing of bank swallow; it is chiefly grayish-brown. **Creek martin**(S). It may nest in holes in banks. **Gully martin**(S). Same note. **Sand swallow**(S). Same note.

BARN SWALLOW. **Bad-weather bird**(N). Its appearance thought to presage worse weather. **Barn swallow**(Apparently general). It habitually nests in barns. This name also in British folk use. **Gust (or gus) bird**(N). See note under preceding species.

PURPLE MARTIN. **Bee martin**(N). It occasionally eats honeybees. **Black martin**(N,S). The feathers are tipped with steel blue, overlying black and sooty gray; "martin" = swallow. **Gourd bird**(S). From nesting in gourds put up for its use by man. **Gourd martin**(N,S). Same note. **House martin**(N,S). From nesting in houses erected for it by man. **Martin**(Rather general). A very widespread designation for swallows; immediately available for this bird by shortening the name, purple martin.

BLUE JAY. **Blue jay, jay, jay bird**(General). Jay, sonic. **Jayhawker**(N). **Robber**(N). It preys upon the eggs and young of other birds. **Smarty**(S). A Gullah term, apparently from the bird's dressy appearance and assured demeanor. **Devil bird**(S). This species is widely assumed to be in league with Satan as spy, messenger or helper, especially in keeping the fires burning by carrying sticks to the devil every Friday.

AMERICAN CROW. **Crow**(Universal). Traceable to sonic terms as the French *corbeau* and Latin *corvus*. **Jim Crow**(General). "Jim" a familiar or "pet" name. **Raven**(N). In the mountains, where the true raven also occurs.

FISH CROW. **Jackdaw**(N,S). Transfer from a small European species of the same family. For that species the name is "daw" from its call, with the nickname "Jack" (meaning small) prefixed.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. **Cee-dert**(N). Sonic. **Chickadee**(N). Son-

ic. **Friendly bird**(S). It is unusually confiding. **Pee-dee-tert**(N). Sonic. **See-nanny**(N). Apparently basically sonic but with an implication of small size. **Tom-tit**(S). A familiar name plus an abbreviation of titmouse. **Tom-tit's sweetheart**(S). "Sweetheart" sonic; perhaps tomtit here refers to the Tufted Titmouse. **Tontil**(S). Corruption of tomtit.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. **Chickadee**(S). Through confusion with true chickadees. **Fairy bird**(N). **Peto bird**(N). First term sonic. **Summer-singer bird**(S). **Tit**(S). Abbreviation of tomtit; it means a small bird. **Titert**(N). Perhaps sonic. **Titmouse**(N). **Tomtit** (General). See note under preceding species.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. **Sapsucker**(General). It gets this name from being mistaken for a woodpecker; though practically all woodpeckers are somewhere or sometime called sapsucker, the term is a misnomer except for the two or three species of *Sphyrapicus*. **Tomtit**(N). See note on this term under Carolina Chickadee. It is applied rather loosely to a variety of small birds.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH. **Tomtit**(S). See preceding note.

BROWN CREEPER. **Niterted bird**(N). Meaning unknown. **Tomtit**(N). See notes on this term above.

HOUSE WREN. **Spider wren**(N). It feeds upon spiders. **Wren**(General).

BEWICK'S WREN. **House wren**(N). It nests in houses provided by man. **Wagtail wren**(N). The only one of our wrens that wags its tail—and that sidewise.

CAROLINA WREN. **Change bird**(S). From being especially vociferous before changes in the weather. **House wren**(N). As being seen near houses; it sometimes nests in crevices therein; and rarely in boxes provided for birds by man.

MARSH WREN. **Tomtit**(S). See notes on this name on preceding species.

EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD. **Mockbird**(S). From imitating the notes of other birds. **Mockingbird**(Universal). Same note. **Nightingale**(N). From singing at night; it is not at all related to the European nightingale. **Southern nightingale**(S). See preceding note. **Sweetheart bird**(S). Its copious melody especially on moonlit nights may well be an inspiration to lovers.

CATBIRD. **Catbird**(Universal). A common call resembles the meouw of a cat.

BROWN THRASHER. **Brown thrush**(General). **French mockingbird**(N,S). As a distinctive kind of mockingbird; it does not mimic so much as does the true mocker; but withal is a superb singer though for a regrettably short season. **Ground mockingbird**(N). As remaining on or near the ground more than does the true mockingbird. **Mockingbird**(N). See note on French mockingbird. **Pig thrasher**(N,S). Possibly because it "roots" among fallen leaves for food; thrasher seems to come from thrusher=thrush. **Swamp sparrow**(N). "Sparrow" probably refers to its speckled breast; "swamp" to a part-time habitat. **Thrasher**(General). Thresher, an equivalent, is an English name for the European song thrush, so the name "thrasher" for our species would seem to be a transfer. **Thrush**(S). Short for brown thrush; or for "thrusher", a name for a similarly colored songster, the European song thrush.

AMERICAN ROBIN. **Red-breasted robin**(N). **Robin**(Universal). **Robin redbreast**(N). Robin is a transfer from a similarly confiding, but smaller, European species of the same family, which is dusky above and reddish-orange below.

WOOD THRUSH. **Bogtrot**(S). From a swampy habitat. **Master singer**(S). **Mountain mockingbird**(N.) Latter term in tribute to superior song, not mimicry. **Mud bird**(S). From using mud in building its nest. **Nightingale**(N,S). Likening it to Europe's most noted bird songster is a tribute to its superior song, which is often given from dusk to dark. **Pewter-legs**(N). They are of pale flesh-color. **Quillaree**(N). Sonic. **Sanguilla**(S). "Sangalo"is a possible forerunner; this Gullah name for "a wild

duck", found with identical form and meaning in the language of the Mende tribe, Sierra Leone, Africa (Lorenzo D. Turner), may have been varied to sanguilla, which has been applied to other birds in southeastern States. **Short-tailed thrasher**(S). In contrast to the brown (or long-tailed) thrasher; see note on that term *ante*. **Silver-tongue**(N). As an admirable songster. **Speckled thrush**(N). **Swamp robin**(N,S). Swamp, a part-time habitat. Although of different coloration, it is rather closely related to the robin. **Swamp thrasher**(N). "Swamp" a part-time habitat; see note on thrasher, above. **Swamp thrush**(S). **Wood robin**(N). See note on "swamp robin". **Wood thrush**(N).

HERMIT THRUSH. **Chuck**(N). Sonic. **Tarkle-witch**(N). Probably "turtle-witch", but thereby made no clearer as to meaning.

COMMON BLUEBIRD. **Blue bird**(General). The male is largely blue above. **Red-breasted bluebird**(N). The breast of the male is cinnamon-rufous. Color is duller in females.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. **Blue wren**(S). Pale, bluish-gray above; "wren" as a small bird. **Little mockingbird**(S). It is considerably like the mockingbird in color. **Moss bird**(N). The nest looks as if it were made of moss. **Sanguillah**(S). See note on that term under the Wood Thrush. **Tomtit**(S). "Tit", as a small bird; "Tom", a familiar or "pet" name.

WATER PIPIT. **Skylark**(N). It has some resemblance to the European skylark, and like that species sings on the wing.

CEDAR WAXWING. **Cedar bird**(General). As frequenting "cedars" and feeding on their "berries" (i.e., modified cones). **Cherry bird**(General). From feeding on that fruit. **Grape bird**(N). Similar note. **Satin bird**(N). Its plumage is sleek and of softly-blended coloration. **Sealing-wax**(N). The shafts of the secondary wing feathers look as if tipped with red sealing-wax. **Sealing-wax bird, wax bird**(S). Same note.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. **Butcher bird**(General). Because it hangs its prey on thorns or other sharp objects and in crotches, preparatory to rending it. **Cotton-picker**(S). From its flying low over cotton fields. **Fly-low bird**(S). **French mockingbird**(General). As a distinctive kind of "mockingbird"; latter term from its great similarity in general appearance to the true mockingbird; it also has some power of mimicry. **Hard-head**(S). **Loggerhead**(S). That is, bighead. **Nine-killer**(S). From German, *Neuntödter;* in European folklore the belief is prevalent that a butcherbird kills nine victims every day. **Skirk**(S). Apparently a variant of shrike; but it may be an independent sonic term.

STARLING. **Hog bird**(N). "It eats anything and all there is of it."

WHITE-EYED VIREO. **Branch swinging bird**(N). The nest is suspended in the fork of a twig.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. **Big hanger**(N). The nest is suspended from a forked twig. **Yellow-throated swinging bird**(N). Same note.

RED-EYED VIREO. **Hanger, hanging bird, little hanger, red-eyed swinging bird**(N). The nest is suspended in the fork of a branch or twig.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. **Creek canary, swamp canary**(S). From habitats and its largely yellow coloration. **Wild canary**(S). See preceding note; warblers, when noticed at all by the public, are likely to receive this name.

MYRTLE WARBLER. **Myrtle bird**(N.S). It feeds upon the berries of the wax-myrtle (*Murica*). **Tallow-tail**(N). In allusion to the yellow rump. **Yellow bird**(N). It is not yellow but has four yellow spots. **Yellow-rump**(S).

OVEN-BIRD. **Fool bird**(N). **Oven bird**(Rather general). From its arched-over nest. **Teacher**(N). From its song, which seems this word repeated, and with rising emphasis.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH. **Branch thrush**(S). A thrush-like bird that frequents small streams.

YELLOW-THROAT. **Brier bird**(N). From inhabiting thickets.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. **Chat**(N) Short for chatterer. **Circus bird**(S). From its aerial tumbling. **Kafe**(N). Sonic. **Mockingbird**(N,S). While seeming to mimic numerous sounds, this species does not rival the

true mockingbird, especially in repeating the notes of other birds. **Pompey**(N). In Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure", a clownish servant is named "Pompey"; that name was commonly given to slaves and may have acquired the significance of uncouth, or the like; the bird is called clown, also, from its strange cries and aerial antics; such ideas seem to underly the present name. **Whistling canary**(S). In allusion to its conspicuous song and yellow breast. **Yellow nightingale**(N). This bird sings at all hours of the night, but for continuity and elegance of song is not to be compared with Europe's most noted avian vocalist; the breast is yellow.

HOODED WARBLER. **Spring talker**(N). It has a loud, ringing song; "spring" may allude to the season or to habitat, as the bird frequents moist situations.

HOUSE SPARROW. **Bull sparrow**(N). This may refer to its pugnaciousness or may be a shortening of "John Bull", i.e., English, sparrow; much of the original stock was imported from England. **English sparrow**(Universal). See preceding note. **Spar' bird**(N). **Sparrow**(Universal).

BOBOLINK. **Cottontail**(N). The rump and lower back of the male are white. **May bird**(S). From the month in which it is commonly noticed. **Oats bird**(S). As feeding on that grain. **Reed bird**(N,S). As frequenting reeds or wild rice, upon the grain of which it feeds. **Rice bird**(N,S). Formerly a pest to the rice crop.

COMMON MEADOWLARK. **Field lark**(General). Though it is not a lark. **Lark**(N.S). **Meadowlark**(General). **Old-fieldlark**(N.S.).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. **One-one**(S). Gullah, because the male seems always to itself in the nesting season. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. **Redwing, red-winged blackbird**(General). There is a large red and buff patch at the bend of the wing in the male. **Rice bird**(N,S). All birds feeding upon rice shared this name. **Swamp blackbird**(General).

ORCHARD ORIOLE. **English mockingbird**(N). Latter term merely credits it with being a good songster, not a mimic; former to distinguish it from the true Mockingbird. **English robin**(N). Latter term as a more or less domestic bird; former to distinguish it from the common Robin. **Goldfinch**(S). As a brightly colored bird. **Sanguillah**(S). In 1910. Arthur T. Wayne stated that this name was known to have been in use a hundred years. In Professor Lorenzo D. Turner's manuscript (1945) is recorded the term "sangalo", which he found to mean wild duck in the Gullah dialect; and which he says has that identical form and meaning in the language of the Mende tribe, Sierra Leone, Africa. Despite the meaning, he reports this word seems a very likely root of the name "sanguillah" applied in the Southeast to a number of songbirds.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. **Baltimore bird**(N, S). Its colors are those of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore, Proprietor of the Province of Maryland. **Fire bird**(S). About half of the plumage of the adult male varies from "cadmium yellow to intense orange or almost flame scarlet." Ridgway, 1902. **Golden robin**(Rather general). "Golden", see preceding note; "robin" as a familiar bird. **Golden weaver**(S). See second preceding note; "weaver" from its neatly woven nest. **Hang-nest**(Rather general). The nest is suspended. **Nonpareil**(S). "Unequalled", from the bright colors of the male. **Yellow bird**(N). This term may refer to the female, as the male has much orange and black coloration.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. **Jackdaw**(Universal). By transfer from a European member of the crow family, with which our bird has little in common, either in color, size, or habits. **Salt-water blackbird**(S). Its habitat is mostly near the coast.

COMMON GRACKLE. **Big blackbird**(S). But not so big as the boat-tail. **Jackdaw**(N, S). See second preceding note; the name is even less fitting for this species. **White-eyed blackbird**(S). The iris is pale yellow.

COMMON COWBIRD. **Cow bird, cow blackbird**(General). From its associating with cattle.

SCARLET TANAGER. **Black-winged redbird**(Rather general). **Cuban redbird**(N). To distinguish it from the common redbird, or Cardinal. **Fire bird**(N). The plumage of the male is chiefly scarlet. **Mountain redbird**(N). **Piny-woods redbird**(S). **Red bird**(Rather general). **Swamp robin**(S). As a

familiar bird distinct from the common robin. **Timber redbird**(N). **Toxaway bird**(N). From its prevalence in the Toxaway country of western North Carolina.

SUMMER TANAGER. **Bee bird**(N). From feeding on honeybees. **French mockingbird**(S). **Peterchuck**(N). Sonic. **Redbird**(General). The plumage of the male is chiefly dull red to vermilion. **Scarlet finch**(S). See preceding note. **Summer redbird**(General). In contrast to the winter redbird or cardinal.

CARDINAL. **Cardinal**(Probably general). From the vermilion-red coloration of the male; a distinctive part of the vestiture of a Cardinal, or member of the Pope's council, is red. **Redbird**(Universal). **Seed-cracker**(S). It has a powerful bite. **Virginia nightingale**(N, S). It is an excellent songster but does not habitually sing at night. **Winter redbird**(N). In contrast to the summer redbird or tanager.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. **Balsam bird**(N). From frequenting the balsam *(Abies)* forest.

BLUE GROSBEAK. **Big indigo**(N). That is, indigo bird, in contrast to the smaller Indigo Bunting of the same general coloration. **Seed-eater**(S.) **Rice bird**(N). From feeding on that crop. **Wheat bird**(N). Similar note.

INDIGO BUNTING. **Blue bird**(N). The plumage of the male is mostly iridescent bluish. **Blue finch, blue linnet**(S). Same note. **Indigo**(N). **Indigo bird**(General). To distinguish it from the Blue Grosbeak of similar coloration. **Wheat bird**(N).

PAINTED BUNTING. **Butterfly bird, butterfly finch**(S). From the bright, varied colors of the male. **English robin**(N). As a familiar bird distinct from the common Robin. **Little Mary Morgan**(S). Fanciful name. **Nonpareil**(General). "Without equal", in reference to the extraordinarily diversified and brilliant coloration of the male.

DICKCISSEL. **Judas bird**(S). From its song which is thought to resemble the words "Judas Iscariot."

PURPLE FINCH. **Tweeker**(N). One that utters the note "tweek". **Twehee**(N). Sonic.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. **Elm sparrow**(S). It feeds on the seeds of elm as soon as they are formed in Spring. **Flax bird**(S). From feeding on the seeds of that plant. **Goldfinch**(Probably rather general). The dominant color of the breeding male is canary-yellow. **Lettuce bird**(Rather general). From its feeding on lettuce seeds. **May bird**(S). From the month in which it is most noticed. **Rice bird**(N, S). **Thistle bird**(Universal). From feeding on the seeds of these plants. **Twehee**(N). Sonic. **Wild canary**(Universal). See note on Goldfinch. **Yellow bird**(Universal). Same note.

EASTERN TOWHEE. **Blue-jo**(N). Latter syllable short for "joree", a sonic term; there is no blue in the plumage. **Bullfinch**(S). That is, a large finch. **Chewing**(General). Sonic. **Ground robin**(General). The black and cinnamon coloration of the male suggests that of the robin; and it is very much a ground-loving bird. **Joe-reek, joereeper, joerigger**(N). **joree** (N, S), **joree bird, jo-wheet, jowink**(N). Sonic. **Low-ground Steven**(N). A familiar or "pet" name. **Scratch bird**(S). It does much scratching among fallen leaves. **Swamp Robert**(N). Latter term meaning robin; see note on ground robin; swamp, a part-time habitat. **Swamp robin**(N, S). "Swamp", see last note; "robin", see note on ground robin. **Towhee**(General). Sonic.

VESPER SPARROW. **Summer sparrow**(N).

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. **Black snowbird**(General). General color of the male above is slaty; snowbird, as being seen in the winter or snowy season. **Blue bird**(N). See preceding note. **Snow bird**(General). **Snow sparrow**(N). See first note.

CHIPPING SPARROW. **Bush sparrow**(N). **Chippy**(General). Its call is a "chip" and its song a succession of similar notes. **Ground sparrow**(N, S). **Hair bird**(General). It uses animal hair to line its nest. **Red-headed sparrow**(N). The crown is rufous-chestnut. **Red-top sparrow**(S). Same note. **Tip sparrow**(N). "Tip", sonic. **Tree sparrow**(N).

FOX SPARROW. **Bull sparrow**(N). That is, big sparrow. **Chuck**(N). Sonic.

SONG SPARROW. **Hedge sparrow**(N). **Song sparrow**(Probably rather general).

BOOK REVIEW

Florida Bird Life. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. 527 pages. Generously and beautifully illustrated with 40 full color plates, 26 by Francis Lee Jaques, retained from the original volume, and 14 by John Henry Dick; 16 plates in black and white, among them photographs of the representative physiographic regions of Florida, and 65 breeding locality and range maps of indicated species.

A full page map in pen and ink divides the state into 4 general regions, simplifying considerably the method that had to be used in Howell when tracking down seasonal and distributional data. The present status of Florida ornithology is summarized by the author, at the same time mentioning many persons of note who have had a hand in the progress of the state in this field; A brief history of bird protection in Florida is included by John H. Baker, President of the National Audubon Society. $12.50. Coward-McCann, N. Y. with cooperation of the U. S. Wildlife Service and the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. 1954.

Florida has one of the richest and most diversified bird populations in any state in the east. It has long deserved an up-to-date source of information. Here is the revision of Arthur H. Howell's original *Florida Bird Life* published in 1932. Alexander Sprunt, with his great list of accomplishments, honors won in the field of ornithology and intimate field knowledge of Florida bird life, was the man for the job. It is a task well done.

Florida Bird Life is a very handsome book and has every promise of becoming immediately outstanding and useful to bird students, ornithologists and naturalists everywhere. All available information on the 509 species cited is carefully analyzed and brought up to 1954, following in many respects, the familiar pattern and format used in *South Carolina Bird Life,* co-authored by Sprunt. One of the most interesting features of this "combination revision-rewrite" of Howell's book, is a history of each species contrasting its status today with that of the period ending in 1932.

The reviewer's copy of *Florida Bird Life* was loaned and has already been in use, put to the test in Florida from its northernmost border to the Everglades. It was pronounced by the borrower as indispensable: "especially for people like me and my wife who are not too familiar with Florida ornithology, and particularly with reference to distribution." (He is one of CBC's finest amateur ornithologists—Ed.)

Some system for cross-referencing the pagination of text and illustrations, similar to that used by Peterson, would have made this volume easier to use. Also, several "beginner" ornithologists, who have used the book, have informed the reviewer that in some plates it is difficult to correlate quickly the depicted species with the "explanation".

And speaking of paintings, why does some of the wonderful Jaques work appear so scratched and smudged—careless reproduction or are the plates wearing out? A number of Artist Dick's paintings are "fuzzy," plates 54 and 56 are very disappointing; a finger definitely points at the printer on this score. One small error we noted is on page 390 under Explanation of Plate 53. That obvious Orange-crown in the upper left-hand corner is no Palm Warbler. However, all these minor slips can be readily corrected in another edition. Congratulations to Mr. Sprunt from CBC!

That *Florida Bird Life* will take its place among the top-ranking books of ornithology is a certainty. Any visitor to Florida, as well as its own residents, interested in the least in wildlife, will do well to study this new book: The richness of ones ornithological experience would be increased in proportion to the use made of *Florida Bird Life*.—KCS

Mourning Dove Populations in North Carolina.—Thomas L. Quay, Editor. Raleigh: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. 46 pp + appendix, illustrated. 1953. Free on request to Commission.

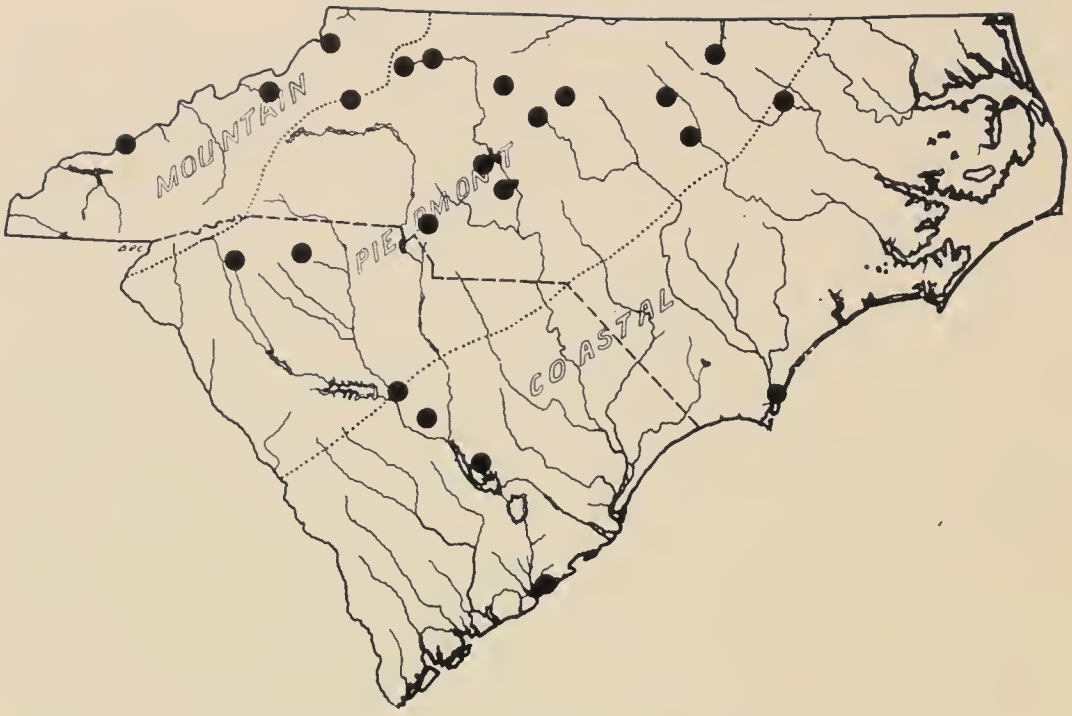
The present bulletin is a compilation in easy, readable style, of the studies carried out in North Carolina on the Eastern Mourning Dove. This work is an integral portion of a regional study conducted in the southeastern states under the auspices of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, covering the period from August 1949, through February, 1953. Participants in the project during this period included members of the Wildlife Resources Commission and personnel of North Carolina State College.

If one accepts the premise that the Mourning Dove is a suitable gamebird species—a point probably open to serious question—the need for detailed information is at once apparent. Much of the basic data required for management of the Mourning Dove is summarized in this bulletin. A brief preliminary note on life history and habits serves to emphasize the long nesting season, extending from March to September, and the present dependence of doves on farm-lands for nesting range and feeding grounds. Seasonal movements are described in the next section, noting the existence of two main migration routes in the eastern United States (Atlantic Coastal states southward and westward along the Gulf Coast; Mississippi Valley states southward and eastward toward Georgia and Florida). The presence of "population segments", distributed geographically and seasonally, is pointed out as responsible for the unstable and shifting population. The seasonal distribution and abundance is then considered in a separate chapter of exceptional interest. In succeeding chapters, methods of determining annual production are described, and the establishment of hunting seasons and bag limits in accordance with results is discussed.

Using data compiled over a four-year period of admittedly low and uneven populations, 1949-1953, it was estimated that about 73% of North Carolina doves die from all causes each year, with a population turnover about 93% complete every two years. Lending accent to these figures, the writer states, "Such a rapid turnover rate gives a delicately balanced game population, capable of gaining ground only slowly under favoring conditions but of losing ground rapidly under adverse conditions." It is liberally estimated that only about 15% or 20% of this heavy annual mortality is due directly to hunting, the remaining 50% being attributable to natural factors (weather, starvation, disease, accidents, predation). The relative importance of each of these natural factors remains to be determined.

The bulletin is printed on good grade paper and bound in heavy stock, having the same dimensions as *The Chat*. It is copiously illustrated. Jack Dermid has contributed twelve photographs, all of outstanding quality. The cover, front and back, is nicely illustrated by pen-and-ink sketches contributed by Will Hon, who also added seven small sketches of doves in various poses and habitats, inserted in the text. The single paged appendix is a chart of Mourning Dove food plants. Six maps and six charts are included.

This publication represents the end result of much painstaking and time-consuming work. The information that it contains should be of value to the general public in explaining the need for rigid management of such species as the Mourning Dove. It should be read by hunters, conservationists, and anyone interested in general ornithology.—THOMAS W. SIMPSON.



CAROLINAS 1954 CHRISTMAS COUNT

	Coastal	Piedmont	Mountain	Total
Localities	5	15	3	23
Birds	49,153	37,385	2,915	89,453
Species	65-165	17-77	23-60	17-163
Participants	46	158	39	243

Compared with last winter, the results obtained were not good. There is no proven reduction in bird population. There were fewer searchers. At Greensboro more parties counted more species. Wilmington, with one party less than last year tallied 163 species which will again be near the top among all Audubon counts. An Accidental, added to the South Carolina Hypothetical List, since a specimen has never been taken there, was a **Western Tanager** seen at Bulls Island. Evening Grosbeaks appear on the Wilmington and Great Smoky Mountains lists. They were at Eastover, S. C. two days before the count there, and at Charlotte a day ahead of their count.

Trends in the following summaries show Number of Species/Number of Observers, since winter of 1949-50, where available. They include the present count.

Coastal:

Charleston, S. C. Trend: 145/38; 137/27; 123/20; 128/18; 131/12; 117/14. Dec. 27. Weather fair. Individuals, 4509. Species, 117. Low count attributed in part to too few parties. The one observer at famed Bulls Island, visitor, G. L. Brody, Chicago, identified a Western Tanager. He had seen the species previously. Twenty-nine species listed in 1953 were not seen this year. Eleven species on this count were not found in the previous count.

Columbia, S. C. Trend: 50/9; 49/6; 59/7; 66/11; 65/12; 65/12. Dec. 30. Weather fair. Individuals 9675. Species 65. Common Cowbirds (1835) topped the list of individuals. There was a particularly large population in the sparrow group. Horseshoe Pond, included in last years count was destroyed by extended drought. Rare find at Columbia was an **Oven-bird.**

Eastover, S. C. Trend: 47/3; 50/4; 44/3; 65/2; 60/3; 70/2. Dec. 27. Partly cloudy, mild. Individuals 549, Species 70. Noteworthy: Anhingas, 2; Canada Goose, 1; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Solitary Vireo, 1; Grasshopper Sparrow, 20. Thirteen **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Mrs. Faver's bird bath Dec. 25th. This is the first record to be reported for South Carolina this winter and the first time the species has been reported seen in the state in any numbers.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton, S. C. Trend: ..; ..; ..; 75/1; 70/1; 67/1. Dec. 30. Partly cloudy, mild. Individuals 17,800 plus. Species 67. Mallards, Gadwall, and Am. Widgeon, estimated at 3550, 2500, and 3600, respectively. Pintails were estimated at 200 this winter, whereas last winter's census showed 2050. A **Henslow's Sparrow**, seldom reported in the interior in winter was listed.

Wilmington. Trend: 136/22; 147/16; 141/14; 142/15; 162/15; 163/16. Dec. 27. Partly cloudy, mild. Individuals about 16,600. Species 163. This is an alltime high for Wilmington. Only two-thirds of the number of individuals found last year were seen this year, however. Mrs. Appleberry suggests this might have been due to hurricane Hazel's terrific west winds —particularly in the case of the Henslow's Sparrows. Most unusual species were: Anhinga, (Mrs. A.); Hudsonian Curlew, 30 (Vaughn); Ground Dove, 2 (Baker and Vaughn); **Evening Grosbeak**, 4. (Trott and Baker—see General Field Notes section, this issue). Short-eared Owl, 2 (Baker and Evans. One was seen on the Pea Island count last winter).

Piedmont:

Charlotte. Trend: 47/11; 50/16; 55/11; 56/8; 58/12; 51/5. Dec. 27. Cloudy, cool. Individuals 1115. Species 51. The poorest count since 1950 was due mostly to poor coverage. An **Evening Grosbeak** and a Catbird at the city feeder of Mrs. J. L. McLean, missed the count by one day (Dec. 26). Five Gadwall were unusual.

Durham. Trend: 44/8; 41/5; ..; ..; ..; 34/2. Jan. 2. Clear, mild. A pond was added to previous area. Individuals 560. Species 34. Insufficient coverage by one party and apparently an off day for birds. No unusual species.

Elkin. Trend: ..; 42/3; 36/2; 60/13; 54/13; 49/10. Dec. 26. Generally fair. Cold. Lakes frozen over. Individuals 2088. Species 49. A Canada Goose count of 180 was made and some Mallards and 2 Blue-winged Teal were found. There were no other water birds present. Sparrows generally were plentiful. There were fewer White-crowns than in recent years. Two Savannah Sparrows were seen.

Greensboro. Trend: 66/24; 74/24; 74/29; 77/32; 73/29; 77/37. The sharp increase of observers shown in the trend is probably one of the results of the recent publication of Dr. Dawley's Guilford County List. Jan. 1. Cloudy, cool, light intermittent drizzle. Individuals 12,213 (last winter 11,993). Species 77. A remarkably good count for a bad day. A Green Heron, normally a summer bird, was a good find. Canvasback Ducks (35) were unusual. The Starling count (2458) was only half of last year's tally. Seventy Swamp Sparrows were found. There was no White-crowned Sparrow on this year's list.

Greenville, S. C. Trend: ..; 38/4; 52/7; ..; 37/4; 43/7. Jan. 1. Cloudy, cool, some rain. Individuals 863. Species 43. No water birds. The sparrow group was well representated. Two White-crowns and one Swamp were found. Goldfinches (175) easily outnumbered all other species.

Henderson. Trend: 46/5; ..; 43/3; 56/3; 53/3; 51/4. Dec. 30. Sunny, warm, windy. Individuals 1384. Species 51. There were no unusual species. Most noticeable was the absence of Mrs. A. W. Bachman, longtime leader of this group.

High Point. Trend: 49/18; 53/15; 56/12; 55/20; 58/17; 62/18. Dec. 31. Weather not reported. Individuals 2972. Species 62. Five Great Blue Herons were seen. Again, Slate-colored Juncos were the most abundant species (515).

Lenoir. Trend: 33/18; ; 30/14; 31/6; 45/11; 37/12. Jan. 1. Rainy throughout the day, cool. Individuals 942. Species 37. (Individuals last year, 1450). No water birds were listed. Most abundant species, Mourning Doves, 147; House Sparrows, 150; White-throated Sparrows, 97. Again this year

White-crowned Sparrows were on the list, but in reduced numbers (12).

New London, Stanly County, N. C. Trend: No previous count. (center of area 2 miles NW Badin, includes Yadkin River and Morrow Mt. State Park). Dec. 31. Clear, cool, some frost. Individuals 2810. Species 76. An unusually high species count for the area. Noteworthy: Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Wild Turkey, 6 (Morrow Mt); Sedge (Short-billed) Marsh Wren, 5; White-crowned Sparrow, 2.

Raleigh. Trend: 62/8; 60/9; 60/10; 67/9; 74/12; 66/13. Dec. 27. Cool, cloudy, water open. Individuals 4136. Species 66. (Individuals last year, 7900, 5600 of which were Starlings. This winter Starlings numbered 2000. Excluding Starlings from both counts, the figures are about the same for both winters). Seventeen Hooded Mergansers in this count were not seen last year. There were no Scaup this year. The large number (18) of Red-headed Woodpeckers is unusual. Song Sparrows recorded at 100 last winter increased to 283 in this count.

Rocky Mount. Trend: . .; 53/3; 60/4; 48/3; 48/3; 48/7. Jan. 1. Cloudy, humid, cool. Individuals 3071 plus. Species 48. Three consecutive counts of the same number of species is interesting. Counts of individuals for the past three winters: 2150, 2001, 3071. The increase this year is fairly uniform over the list of species excepting Goldfinches, which numbered 199 in the present count and did not appear in the preceding count. Shrikes appear plentiful in all counts. Robins were scarce.

Salisbury. Trend: Census began 1953. 44/3; 52/3. Dec. 30. Clear to partly cloudy, cool. Individuals 1036. Species 52. The addition of Concord Lakes to last year's area seems to account for the Grebes, Geese, Ducks, and Coot not found last year. There were no unusual species reported.

Spartanburg. Trend: 57/7; 65/10; 59/10; 61/15; 53/12; 58/11. Dec. 30. Clear, cool, water open. Individuals 1541. Species 58. Common Yellow-throat, 1; and White-crowned Sparrow are rare in the general area but not new for Spartanburg. Canada Geese, generally on Zimmerman Lake are not included this year.

Wilkesboro-North Wilkesboro. A new study area of 3 mile radius and incomplete. Includes parts of the Yadkin River basin and 50% open field. Dec. 28. Cloudy, light, intermittent rain, cool. Water open. Individuals 1242. Species 32. The Robin count was about 580. There were 16 White-crowned Sparrows. No Titmouse was found. Bob-white, missed on the count, were seen (70) on Dec. 25.

Winston-Salem. Trend: 53/12; 54/19; 62/11; 54/8; 61/14; 58/6. Dec. 26. Fair to partly cloudy, cool. Individuals 3023. Species 58. Individuals last year totaled 7700. Eliminating Starlings from both counts brings them fairly close together. There were no unusual finds in species. White-throated Sparrows totaled 406.

Mountains:

Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Tennessee-North Carolina. Trend: 59/30; 59/34; 58/40; 57/30; 62/30; 60/30. Jan. 2. Mostly clear, cool, wind up to 25 m.p.h. at high altitudes. Some snow in higher places. Individuals 2000. Species 60. About 900 fewer individuals than last winter. This reduction was spread over most species. Most unusual find was a **Louisiana Water-thrush,** observed by Tanner and Stupka. The bird was present daily after Dec. 8. It is a first winter record for this area. White-crowned Sparrows, present in the '52 and '53 counts were not found this year.

Todd. Ashe-Watauga Counties, N. C. Trend: Counts began 1952. 25/5; 21/5; 23/6. Jan. 2. Clear, cool, wind to 30 m.p.h. No ice. Individuals 346. Species 23. Individuals up 50% over preceding count. No unusual birds found.

Windom, Yancey Co., N. C. (same area as last year except that a part of the town of Burnsville and a mountain cove were left out). Trend: 23/7; 24/4; 26/4; 25/4; 33/4; 26/3. Individuals 570. Species 26. Two factors contributed to the low count this year: only one party participated, and food was scarce. Grapes, pokeberries and brier berries were almost non-existent. No unusual birds were seen.

Participants: **Charleston**: G. L. Brody, R. H. Coleman, Wm. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Comstock, J. H. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. R. D Edwards, Robert Fritzsche, I. S. Metcalf, I. S. H. Metcalf, A. S. Sprunt, Jr., A. M. Wilcox, E. A. Williams, E. Burnham Chamberlain, compiler. **Charlotte**: Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, Mrs. George C. Potter, B. R. Chamberlain, compiler. **Columbia**: Mrs. Gilbert Bristow, Gordon Brown, Mrs. J. R. Clark, Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Jimmy and Billy Hartin, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, David Monteith, Charles J. Simons, Mrs. Kay Sisson, Gilbert J. Bristow, compiler. **Durham**: F. F. Parrish, F. N. Egerton III, compiler. **Eastover**: Mrs. Clyde (Kay) Sisson, Mrs. W. H. Faver, compiler. **Elkin**: Tom Bryan, Rev. Fowler, Fred Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Linville Hendren, Tom Hendren, Mrs. E. M. Hodel, Bill Roth, Wendell P. Smith, E. M. Hodel, compiler. **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**: Mary Ruth Chiles, Brockway Crouch, Larry Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dunbar, Keeton Griffin, Dr. Joseph C. Howell, Mrs. Elsie S. Janson, Wm. M. Jonson, Tony Koella, Richard Laurence, Granville B. Liles, James E. Liles, Henry W. Lix, Richard A. Lorenz, Dorothy MacLean, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Monroe, Meredith Morris, Mrs. E. E. Overton, J. B. Owen, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Schneider, Jr., Mr. and Mrs Louis F. Smith, Jr., Dr. James T. Tanner, Dr. Samuel R. Tipton, Dr. Dorothy E. Williams, Mary Williams, Arthur Stupka, compiler. **Greensboro**: Mrs. W. C. Carr, John Carr, Inez Colewell, Evelyn Cole, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Larry A. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Daniels, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, James W. Furr, Mamie Gray, Sidney Holmes, Mrs. Albert King, Anne Locke, James R. Mattocks, Mrs. Robert E. McCoy, Ethel McNairy, Dr. and Mrs. F. H. McNutt, Ida Mitchell, David Neave, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Perrett, Dr. Hollis J. Rogers, Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith L. Settan, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, George A. Smith, Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Mrs. Charles Swart, Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor, Ethel Troy, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Mrs. R. H. Weisner, Thomas E. Street, compiler. **Greenville, S. C**: Ruth Gilreath, Rosa Lee Hart, Mary Jenkinson, May Puett, Martha Shuler, J. B. Shuler, compiler. **Henderson**: Misses Mariel Gary, Claudia Hunter, May Hunter, Garnette Myers, compiler. **High Point**: Barbara Brooks, Mrs. James Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Eshelman, J. W. Furr, Mrs. J. E. Harney, Mrs. C. C. Hayworth, Mrs. Worth Ivey, Mrs. C. B. Mattocks, James Mattocks, Genevieve Moore, Mrs. D. R. Parker, Mrs. Edith Sherrod, Mrs. C. E. Siceloff, Mary Alice Siceloff, George A. Smith, Marjorie Welborn, Mrs. W. F. Ellis, compiler. **New London** (Stanly Co.), N. C: P. E. Book, Mr. and Mrs. J. Barrett Crook, Tom Ellis, Susan Greene, H. H. Haithcock, Barbara Hatley, Mrs. Mazel Lyke, Gail Mahathey, Douglas Miller, Mrs. Ed. Pennington, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Price, John Renger, Jr., Tommy Shaver, Wayne Smith, David Taylor, Anne Whitlock, John Trott, compiler. **Raleigh**: Philip Davis, Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, William, Cathey, and Billy Hamnett, Robert Overing, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Winkler, Johnny Winkler, Mrs. D. L. Wray, John Wray, D. L. Wray, compiler. **Rocky Mount**: Marshall Barney, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Benbow, Mr. and Mrs. Gaddys Taylor of Tyler, Texas, Mrs. J. W. E. Joyner, Bill Joyner, compiler. **Salisbury**: T. W. Blair, T. W. Blair, Jr., R. H. Blair, compiler. **Santee National Wildlife Refuge**, Summerton, S. C: R. J. Lemaire, compiler. **Spartanburg**: Flora Beymer, Gabriel Cannon. Louisa Carlisle, Harold Correll, Margaret Hammond, Tucker McCravy, Dr. and Mrs. W. P. Walker, Dr. and Mrs. John O. Watkins, Ruth Crick(compiler. **Todd**: (Ashe-Watauga Co. line), N. C., Mrs. Banner Blevins, Linnaeus Derrick, Ray Derrick, James J. Miller, Kent Robinson, Mrs. A. Burman Hurt, compiler. **Wilkesboro-N. Wilkesboro**: Rev. Manuel Fowler, Wendell P. Smith, compiler. **Wilmington**: C. M. Appleberry, Dot, Mary, and Sam Baker, Clifford Comeau, John Evans, John Foster, Bob Holmes, III, Ruth Leman, Polly Mebane, Robert MacMillan, John Trott, Marie Vander Schalie, Margie Vander Schalie, Mike Vaughn, Mrs. C. M. Appleberry, compiler. **Windom, N. C**: Roosevelt Hughes, Wade Styles, James Hutchins, compiler. **Winston-Salem**: Dr. and Mrs.T. W. Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Spencer, J. L. Stephenson, R. H. Witherington, compiler.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C., Jan. 16, 1955*

BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER Department Editor

The greatest surprise of all the years that I have been "backyard birding" came this Christmas Day when I looked out of the dining room window and saw the birdbath filled to overflowing with Evening Grosbeaks! I had never dreamed of the possibility of seeing them here in the center of South Carolina. When Anne called, "Come quick, and tell me what these birds are; I've never seen them before!", I hurried to the window, wondering what in the world could be there, for she knows all the birds in this neighborhood. I immediately recognized them as Evening Grosbeaks, for there is nothing that can be confused with this species in size or color. I had considered myself extremely lucky to have had the opportunity of adding them to my life list when we saw them in Raleigh, North Carolina, while there on a CBC meeting on March 16, 1952 That year, a large flight of these birds from the far north visited twenty-one communities from Greenville, South Carolina on throughout the piedmont and mountain sections of North Carolina. They were first reported from Greenville on November 18, 1951, and they were seen from then on until the first of May. For the entire report on these very interesting birds, see *The Chat*, June 1952, page 30.

The point I want to emphasize, though, is the fact that Evening Grosbeaks readily visited feeding stations, where they fed on sunflower seed, quenched their thirst and bathed in birdbaths. Now, if we had had more "backyard birders" scattered throughout the Carolinas we could have had many more reports. So many people tell me, "Oh, I haven't TIME to watch birds!" If you will locate feeders at a kitchen window, or a bath outside a dining room window, and even carry your binoculars with you when you go to straighten up in the bedrooms like I do, you will find that it takes only a glance from the window to keep track of the birds outside.

Two metal brackets from the hardware store hold a simple board about two inches above the sill of one kitchen window. This is the extreme left window of four that form the west wall of our breakfast room. We have taken the screen out of it, and the feeder is kept supplied easily by merely opening the window. Thus in very cold or rainy weather, this feeder is handy, and there is no need to stop working and wrap up in hat and coat to go out doors in order to put out feed. Maybe it is a lazy way to look at it, but it is ideal for a busy person. I was lucky to find a piece of tin roofing just large enough to cover this feeder, so I fastened it by wire to nails in the sides of the window right where the sashes meet. It makes a nice roof, and yet does not obstruct the view from the window. It was here that the Baltimore Orioles came to feed one winter on the pan of milk-soaked bread. It was here, too, that a White-crowned Sparrow came one morning to eat the baby-scratch chicken feed. All the common birds on the hillside come readily, the majority in winter being the White-throated Sparrows. In the summer, this shelf is the "baby-bird nursery," and we get many a

laugh out of the young birds being taught to eat from the pan by their parents.

Many trees and bushes and vines about our yard furnish shelter and nesting sites for those species of birds that do not use boxes. Also the many green leaves offer an abundant supply of worms and insects to birds that do not often come to the feeders, namely, the migratory warblers. Since our home site might be termed as a "water-hole" in the high sandhills between the swamps of the Wateree and Congaree Rivers, it seems to be a natural resting place for these small birds. Actually, we are on the "fall line," for from the top of the hill we look down, down toward the swamps and the flat lands in the direction of the coast. So every spring and fall, we are thrilled by the appearance of these colorful little songsters. Then I really live with binoculars around my neck, for at any moment I might glance out of a window and see a flash of yellow, as a Blue-winged Warbler comes in to feed in the large scuppernong vine. The Golden-winged seems to prefer the pecan trees, and I have seen one several times in these large trees over the house or in the old walnut tree. Years ago, I saw a Swainson's Warbler as I was planting lillies in the edge of the woods near the spring. I did not know what the bird was at that time, and did not make a record of it, so have lost it for my files. I am still eagerly watching for another glimpse of one though, for I believe the species could pass this way en route to nesting sites in the laurel and rhododendron thickets of the mountains. The rarest warbler seen in our yard so far has been the Kirtland's. I identified it easily by the picture in Peterson's Field Guide, but as I do with any new species I find, I got out all the books I have, to learn all I could about the bird. With this one, the more I read, the more excited I got, for it seemed I had really seen something unusual. Finally, I called the Museum at Charleston, and told Mr. Burton about the warbler, and this record was included in the Addenda of *South Carolina Bird Life*, as the fourth fall record for the state! Two years later, in almost the same spot in the yard, I again saw a Kirtland's, but have not seen one since.

Another attraction that we have for birds on this hillside is a patch of burr clover on the slope down toward the spring. This clover has masses of yellow blooms in early spring that are followed by little brown burrs. If you pick one of these burrs up and unroll it, you will find a row of small pea-like seeds that the birds really love. Hot weather kills back the green clover, but the ground is covered with the little burrs, and the sparrows and Cardinals will sit all winter and "chew" on them. For the last two springs, we have had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak come by to feed on the burrs. Last year, he was in mature male plumage, and so pretty. Goldfinches and the small Sparrows also like this clover patch.

A hurricane blew down the old pear tree in the back yard in which I had first seen so many species of birds. However, a mulberry has come up in its place, and this tree is equally as good a bird-attractor as the blooming fruit tree was. The Scarlet Tanagers are the main visitors to this tree, as well as the migratory thrushes. There is another mulberry at the spring at the bottom of the hill. A large persimmon tree at the front of the house offers many a feast for the birds in the fall, as the gum trees do over the spring. There is a dense undergrowth of bramble briar and honeysuckle under the large trees on the south side of the spring that offers food as well as shelter. In this area around our home, including the swampy part at the spring at the bottom of the hill in the back, I have identified one hundred and eighteen species of birds during the last fifteen years.

Wherever you live, prepare your yard for backyard birding. The birds don't care whether you have a board, or just a pan, or the most elaborate feeder you can buy. A large inverted pot top or a graceful birdbath will offer the necessary water. Be careful, if you have a pedestal birdbath, about small children, as this type is rather easily toppled over. Now that Clara is toddling around, we will take ours off the pedestal, for our little granddaughter loves the birds already, and is curious about the bath and feeder. This is another great reward of backyard birding . . . the privilege of teaching children to know and be interested in birds and all things of the out-of-doors.—*Dept. Editor*

A LOOK AT TEN YEARS OF CENSUS TAKING

B. R. Chamberlain

There are two important objectives in making a bird census, or more properly, a bird count. The primary one is to determine bird population in a given area at a specified time. The second objective is to add the experience of another enjoyable day in the field. A successful combination of these two is what we are after.

Let's examine objective one. Number two takes care of itself very well. We may safely assume that a birder will manage to enjoy a day in the field.

Determining bird population by species is not easy to do in the course of a single day. If a count is to represent with some accuracy the status of bird life in a given area, it must be well planned and carefully carried out. In very thinly populated areas, a single experienced observer with a thorough knowledge of the territory can return a representative count in a given day. As the population density increases, coverage becomes more difficult and more observers are required. There lies the difficulty. In most communities there is a serious shortage of capable observers.

Two solutions come to mind. If time permits, a second count might be taken within the specified calendar limit, and the better of the two turned in. This almost surely will be the second count, and for medium-sized counts, it may add 10 per cent or more to the total number of species. This double count is merely an extension of the pre-count spotting that is essential to a good count. The other solution is to combine forces from neighboring communities. In that way, some really thorough coverage could be obtained, and a representative count from one location is much more valuable than several partial counts from as many places of similar habitat. As applied to the Carolinas, in place of the twenty to twenty-five counts now being taken, among which only a few get adequate coverage, we might do better with six counts: two in the mountains; two in the piedmnt; and two on the coast.

Both of the foregoing plans have obvious disadvantages, however, and it is likely that the present order shall prevail for some time yet. It is therefore encouraging to find, upon analyzing the counts of the past ten years at Charlotte, N. C., that progress can be made toward representative counts by a few persistent people.

At Charlotte, within the confines of the prescribed 15-mile diameter circle, which centers at the south-eastern limits of the city, the number of species recorded in the Jan. 1954 count was 58. In the past ten mid-winter counts, a total of 84 species have been found. Excepting confused casuals, and left over casualties, a count of 80 species is about right for our area, which is 200 miles inland and some 650 feet above sea level. The recent count of 58 species, or 72 per cent of the "total" is not bad for a small group. As for improvement, our 1944 count returned 33 species. The growth is due largely to increased knowledge of our area rather than to any substantial increase in bird population. This belief is supported by the fact that neighboring areas with experienced observers had good counts in 1944. Knowledge of where to look for each species and the ability to be there are keys to a full count. In our area, where closed water and snow cover are

unknown, or of short duration, weather's chief roles may be its effect upon visibility and the comfort of the birder. It appears that the point has now been reached from which variations in future Charlotte counts will be indicative of population changes. The future problems will be to explain the changes encountered.

Examination of other data relating to the Charlotte counts is interesting.

Over the ten year period, 39 different observers participated. Seventeen of those were present for one count only. One was present for all counts, and four others took part in more than half of the counts.

Thirty species of birds were common to eight or more of the counts. These form the back-bone of our mid-winter population. They are listed below. Also listed are the names of the ten most plentiful species in the order of their abundance. If you know birds, you can get a fair idea of the nature of our census area from these lists, and you won't be surprised that the names in the third list were seen on one occasion only. We anticipate a change in this listing, however. The growth of small artificial ponds in our Piedmont counties in recent years is attracting water birds and we are putting more of them on our "What to Look For" list.

Species found on eight or more counts.

Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Mourning Dove
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren
Eastern Mockingbird
American Robin
Hermit Thrush
Common Bluebird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Loggerhead Shrike
Starling
Myrtle Warbler
Pine Warbler
House Sparrow
Common Meadowlark
Cardinal
Purple Finch
American Goldfinch
Slate-colored Junco
Field Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Ten most plentiful species, in the order of their abundance. The figures indicate relative abundance, based arbitrarily upon Common Meadowlarks.

Slate-colored Junco	45	American Goldfinch	15
Starling	24	House Sparrow	13
Common Bluebird	20	Cardinal	13
American Crow	20	Field Sparrow	11
White-throated Sparrow	20	Common Meadowlark	10

Seen on one count only:

Canada Goose
Gadwall
Blue-winged Teal
Ruddy Duck
Common Gallinule
Horned Lark
Water Pipit
Yellow-throat
Common Cowbird
Vesper Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow

—*Matthews, N. C., January 11, 1954.*

Reprints of Carolina Bird Names by W. L. McAtee, available until April 1 at cost, plus postage. Order from T. L. Quay, Box 5215, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.—*Ed.*

GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the alloted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

The present winter promises unusual opportunities for Carolina birders. As early as Oct. 7, it was seen to be different. *Disaster in Migration*, in our December number, covered but a small fraction of the overall losses in the strange weather and man-made traps that confused and doomed millions of small migrants. More of the picture is to be found in *The Oriole, The Migrant, Audubon Field Notes*, and other bulletins. In November, Evening Grosbeaks began to move into North Carolina. Other rare species are almost certain to be here for the finding. Description of appearance and actions should be as complete as possible.

More Ceilometer Data.—William P. Baldwin's able report on the mass destruction of migrating birds around Savannah, Ga., on Oct. 7-8, 1954, has just been received. It is to be published elsewhere. The summary follows: "On the basis of newspaper accounts and on our own experince at Savannah, an estimated 1½ to 2½ million birds perished in the East and Southeast as a "cold front" developed during the height of autumnal migration. In the Savannah area this occurred between 6 p.m., and midnight on October 8. Although tall buildings, television towers and lighthouses were sites of marked kill, the greatest destruction was at the more brightly lighted airports. At the Savannah airports the destruction was concentrated around the two mercury arc ceilometers. To reduce unnecessary bird loss in the future, it is recommended that weather stations cap ceilometer lights whenever the extremely adverse atmospheric conditions discussed occur during the September 15-October 31 period. Presumably this might be only a few hours each year."

The adverse conditions referred to featured a 24 degree temperature drop between 6 and 8 p.m., a brisk NNE wind, low clouds and drizzling rain.

A note from Thomas E. Street at the Greensboro weather station explains the low casualty list at the ceilometer there in this way "Two factors: high ceiling; poor ceilometer performance. It was off about 90% of the time from July to late October." About 30 birds were found there.

Reports of destruction at ceilometer beams usually attribute deaths to blinded birds flying into nearby structures or hovering about until exhausted. It would seem that the high probability of sudden collision between the individuals in a flock heading for a narrow beam should not be overlooked. —*Dept. Ed.*

White Pelican at Clinton, N. C.—A note from T. L. Quay transmits an account by Robert L. Stevens of the observation at very low altitude of a

White Pelican over the town of Clinton, Samson Co., N. C., during the afternoon of Aug. 28, 1954. The bird traveled toward the northeast. This occurrence, presumably, should be associated with the approach of hurricane Carol which passed off the coast on Aug. 30. Stevens is a former student of Dr. Quay's.—*Dept. Ed.*

Banding Notes:—A letter from Harry Davis furnishes the following: Bob Holmes banded 6 young Black Skimmers on Radio Island, Beaufort, N. C., July 17, 1954. He reports the usual number of adult birds, but the nests were scattered and few, with eggs to flying young. Adult Common and Least Terns were present, but no nesting was in evidence. Conclusion —last stand against human encroachment. Also, Bill Joyner and John Thompson banded 81 young Black Skimmers on shoals near Cape Lookout, July 10. These too varied from eggs to flying young.

At Lennon's Marsh, Lumberton, N. C., James L. Stephens banded 297 Little Blue Herons and 3 Common Egrets in three trips during May and June, 1954. Stephens noted a nice increase in the number of nests at the rookery. He found red-fin pickerel, crayfish, small frogs and small snakes in the nests with young. He saw 6 Anhingas, the first in five years, but there was no evidence of their nests. A total production of 400 Little Blues was estimated for the summer.—*Dept. Ed.*

Unusual Nest of the Thick-billed Plover.—The nest of the Thick-biiled (Wilson's) Plover *(Charadrius wilsonia wilsonia)* is described, almost without exception, as a simple depression in the sand. In rare instances a few bits of shell or pebbles have been included as "lining." In only one instance have I found that "a few straws placed at the bottom of a slight depression—," had been recorded (Bent's *Life Histories*). It was therefore with considerable interest that a set of eggs of this plover was found on a matting of sedge at the south end of Edisto Beach, Charleston County, S. C., on April 24, 1954, by a group including George A. Smith. It was later pointed out to many C. B. C. members, including the writer. The depression in the dried sedge stalks, due possibly to a beach comber's foot print, was approximately a yard away from open sand. The accompanying photograph was made by W. Kenneth Cuyler of Duke University faculty. There were several "normal" nests of the Thick-billed Plover in the area, and certainly, there was no lack of nesting sites.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

Early Stilt Sandpipers at Charleston.—On July 15, 1954, two Stilt Sandpipers *(Micropalama himantopus)* in full nuptial plumage appeared on the mudflats on the western edge of Charleston, S. C. They were so near at hand when first seen that I had to look down at them from the car window, and their identifying features of cross-barred under parts, rusty cheek patch and greenish legs were noted without the aid of binoculars. According to *South Carolina Bird Life* (Sprunt & Chamberlain, 1949), the date is far the earliest on which this species has been recorded in South Carolina in fall migration.

The birds were still present on July 16, and I had the satisfaction of pointing them out to a group of local ornithologists: Messrs. Robert H. Coleman, Herbert R. Sass and Ellison A. Williams. Mr. Williams set up a powerful telescope and, although the birds were about a hundred yards away, we practically "looked them in the eye." The Stilt Sandpiper is a rare spring and fall migrant on the South Carolina coast, usually occurring in the gray winter plumage. Mr. Williams said that he had only once before seen the nuptial plumage.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, *Pensacola, Fla.*

Sanderlings at Lake Mattamuskeet, New Holland, N. C.—On November 6 and 7, 1954, Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green and I observed 7 Sanderlings on a sandy portion of the shore of Lake Mattamuskeet, Hyde County, N. C. The birds were along the causeway, about half way across the lake. Refuge Manager Willie G. Cahoon, who was asked to check on the presence of these birds, writes, "I am very pleased to report that I found them. There were three in one place and five in another. I have checked all the data we have at this station and find no information concerning these birds, therefore I believe we would be safe in assuming that yours is the first record for the refuge."—ROBERT OVERING, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Parasitic Jaeger a Hurricane Casualty.—A Parasitic Jaeger was picked up on the beach six miles north of Oregon Inlet, Dare County, N. C., on October 17, 1954, which was two days after the passage of hurricane "Hazel." The bird was alive but weather beaten, and died shortly thereafter. The identification was made by Sam A. Walker of Poplar Branch, one time manager of the Pea Island Wildlife Refuge.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *Raleigh, N. C.* (The loss of bird life along the Carolina coast due to "Hazel" must have been enormous. If so, evidence, with few exceptions went into the sea with the west winds.—*Dept. Ed*).

Barn Owls at Lake Mattamuskeet.—At about 11:00 p.m. on November 6, 1954, on the causeway crossing Lake Mattamuskeet (Hyde County, N. C.), Bill Joyner and I saw four Barn Owls at intervals on the ground beside the pavement, where evidently they were hunting, for we watched one owl transfer a mouse from its claws to its beak and swallow it whole, head first. The owls were easily distinguishable in the headlights of our car. The moon, full on the 10th, had clouded over earlier in the evening.—ROBERT OVERING, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Spring Roosting of Purple Martins at Aiken, S. C.—During the spring Purple Martins *(Progne subis subis)* are found to use a communal roost which is similar to the ones used by this bird in the fall to a larger extent. In this case, the roosts are used either by transient martins or by those which have not yet joined a nesting colony in the area. My experience with these roosts has been in the early spring, before the main movement of northward-bound martins takes place. As the season progresses the number of martins using the roost naturally increases. In the Aiken area the type of vegetation used as roosting sites is Large Cane Bamboo (A. macrosperma). Large groves of this plant are found within the Aiken city limits, being used chiefly as wind-breaks. Along with the Martins, Cowbirds, Grackles, Red-wings and Starlings as well as Robins favor bamboo groves as roosting sites, using it exclusively whenever it is available. The martins generally arrive at the roost after the other birds have settled after sunset. As they prepare to enter, they circle high over the roost in rather close groups, inspecting the territory around the roost before actually entering. At this time they are circling at about 250 ft. Suddenly they dive headlong into the grove. Often they repeat this diving performance several times,

swooping up again until they are finally satisfied with the appearance of the roost. In the roost I found that they perched about twenty feet from the ground.—WILLIAM POST, JR., *Glen Head, L. I., N. Y.*, and *Aiken, S. C.*

November Record of Dickcissel in South Carolina.—A Dickcissel visited a feeding station at Belvue, 3.5 miles north of Travelers Rest on U. S. Highway 25, Greenville Co., S. C., from November 22 through November 26, 1954. The bird was observed frequently and at close range by G. F. Townes, Laura Townes and J. B. Shuler, Jr. It was not determined whether the bird was a female or a male in winter plumage.

The yellow wash on the breast was bright and extensive, and the observers believe they detected indications of dark "necklace" feathers. Crown streaks were noticeable only in certain lights. The chestnut wing patch was conspicuous, as was the superciliary line. In size the bird was slightly larger than a House Sparrow.

At the feeding station wheat and commercial seed mix were scattered on the ground and seed mix was placed on an orange crate. Visits to the station and rest in nearby cover occupied most of the bird's time. It was a heavy eater, feeding occasionally at the box, but showing a strong preference for the ground, where it ate sprouting wheat. In feeding it would remain crouched in one spot for 5 to 10 minute intervals.

The bird associated with a flock of approximately fifteen House Sparrows. When the flock took momentary flight and returned briefly to cover, the Dickcissel remained feeding. In this, and in other behavior it appeared aggressive and tame, and it showed no sign of injury or disease.—GEORGE F. TOWNES, *Greenville, S. C.*

Evening Grosbeaks.—As of Jan. 15, 1955, reports of the arrival of Evening Grosbeaks have come from Chapel Hill (Nov. 25), Greenville, N. C. (Dec. 20), Eastover, S. C. (Dec. 25), Charlotte (Dec. 26), and Wilmington (Dec. 25, 26). Full reporting of what promises to be a good Evening Grosbeak year will be made when all accounts are in. Typical of the interest aroused is the note from Wilmington by W. S. Baker, Jr., aptly entitled "Christmas Gift." It follows: "Eight o'clock, Dec. 25, 1954. While at breakfast in front of a large upstairs kitchen window, I noticed a flurry about the trees and feeder in our backyard. Twelve Evening Grosbeaks came in and mother and father and I watched them feed and then rest in the "Tree of Heaven" (Ailanthus), before departing. They were with us for about 25 minutes and we enjoyed every moment of their stay. Their beautiful black and white and lemon coloration was most striking. On Dec. 27 they were found on a nearby farm and so we had them in our Christmas count. As far as we have been able to determine this is the first reported occurrence of Evening Grosbeaks at Wilmington."—*Dept. Ed.*

Briefs for the Files

Pied-billed Grebes, killed in large numbers by cars on highways around Lumberton during early November. Presumably mistaking the paving for water, Jas. L. Stephens. **Wood Ibis**, up to 30 remained at Lumberton until Oct. 12, JLS. **White Ibis**, 1 imm., at Clinton, N. C. Aug. 14, Robert E. Stevens; 4 at Long Beach, Wilmington, Aug. 22, Clifford Comeau. **Whistling Swan**, 1, Henderson, N. C., Dec. 2, Mrs. A. W. Bachman. **Peregrine Falcon**, 1, High Point, Sept. 11, 13, James Mattocks. **Virginia Rail**, 1 found dead, North Wilkesboro (Moravian Falls), Aug. 21, Wendell P. Smith. **Wilson Snipe**, 94 counted at Greenfield Lake, Wilmington, in late October. The lake was drained to kill vegetation, Mrs. Appleberry. **Black Terns**, about 8, Cedarbrook, Elkin, Sept. 25, E. M. Hodel. **Ground Dove**, 1 watched at length, 4 miles south of Kinston, N. C., Nov. 24, John Funderburg. **Cliff Swallow**, 1, Aug. 18, North Wilkesboro, WPS. Brown Creeper, more numerous than usual at Elkin, EMH. **Mockinghird** returned for second year at Highlands, N. C., Oct. 7, Tolliver Crunkleton. **Brown Thrasher**, 1, wintering at Hickory, J. Weston Clinard. **Starlings** bred for the first time at Highlands this summer, TC. **Warbling Vireo**, 3, Sept. 17, North Wilkesboro, WPS. **Evening Grosbeak**, 1 at No. Augusta, S. C., Dec. 27, Mrs. Ruth S. Snyder. **Purple Finch**, 2 at North Wilkesboro, Oct. 20, WPS. **White-crowned Sparrow**, arrived Oct. 8 at Elkin, EMH; Oct. 20, at North Wilkesboro, WPS; Fred May watched a large flock of them feeding in a field near Lenoir; at Henderson, an immature White-crown was at the feeder of Mrs. A. W. Bachman until Mar. 25, '54, and she believes the bird wintered nearby. *All dates 1954.*

Founded March 6, 1937 *Incorporated August 8, 1949*

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	$1.00	Contributing	$25.00
Supporting	$5.00	Affiliated Club	$2.00

Life—$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Treasurer: Edwin W. Winkler, 509 Gardner St., Raleigh, N. C.

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Cover Photograph.—Parula nest in festoon of Spanish moss contained three young. Photo taken at the home of Eugene E. Schwall, Wake Co., N. C. Taken by Jack Dermid, Rt. 5, Raleigh, N. C.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Increased interest and enthusiasm in our conservation program was the keynote of the program presented at the recent annual meeting of the Carolina Bird Club at Winston-Salem. This was evidenced by the painstaking slides, lectures and papers offered by Jack Dermid, John Trott, Mrs. W. C. Mebane and Robert D. Edwards. Dr. James Tanner, of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Tenn. was the speaker. It was really an inspiring program and should prod us on to greater efforts in all phases of our program.

Of necessity, there must be some changes in our administrative family each year. This year Mrs. Geo. C. Potter is coming in as secretary, Douglas E. Wade as a vice-president, W. L. Hamnett, Treasurer, Dr. Charlotte Dawley and T. M. Simpson as members-at-large, and Fred H. May as newsletter editor. Appreciation is expressed for the fine work of the retiring officers, and welcome extended to the new officers.

In the field of regional leaders, the work is growing. Most of the leaders have put on good programs, field trips, and afforded participation by many unable to attend the CBC meetings and field trips. Some enthusiastic reports were given at our annual meeting. Added to those already working as leaders is Miss Ebba S. Van of Columbia, S. C., and it goes without saying that she will do a good job as she is well qualified and enthusiastic. There is need for a few more leaders. They will be secured as soon as possible.

With Mr. Ellison Williams of Charleston, S. C., as chairman, and Miss Margaret Harper, of Lenoir, Robert Overing, of Raleigh, and J. W. E. Joyner, of Rocky Mount, as members of his committee, with others yet to be added, it is expected that the endowment fund will grow. This is a part of our program which should receive serious consideration. With a growing membership such as ours, it is necessary to have a long range plan and work towards its accomplishment. With an endowment fund to furnish an income, our work can be expanded. It is hoped and expected that it will receive your loyal support.

Suggestion has been made that there be a hospitality committee in our Club. In line with this suggestion, the following will be asked and expected to serve on this committee: Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Miss Ethel McNairy, Mrs. W. C. Mebane, Mrs. Robert Overing, Mrs. Charlotte Greene, Mrs. Emma Walker, Mrs. Fred H. May, I. H. S. Metcalf, J. W. Clirard, Joe T. Ingram, John Trott, Mrs. A. W. Bachman, Mrs. C. E. Dimmick, Mrs. Rhett Chamberlain, Mrs. Louise M. Haynes, Mrs. Lynn Gault, Miss Rosa Lee Hart, Mrs. Worth Ivey, Gilbert J. Bristow, and others yet to be named, so that all parts of the two states will be represented. The officers of the club should automatically be a part of this committee.

No mention has been made above of the editors and the editorial or advisory staff. This is a most important part of our organization, and sincere appreciation is offered for the excellent work they have performed.

It is hoped that we can join the Georgia Ornithological Society, and the Alabama and Tennessee Bird Clubs at some convenient place this year for a meeting. This should prove to be advantageous to all concerned. It is now being considered by two states.

—MAY W. PUETT

FOLKLORE OF BIRDS IN THE SOUTHEAST

W. L. McAtee

In addition to Carolina Bird Names already published in *The Chat*, the writer has material relating to various birds from the Southeast*, which is here summarized. Folklore, even when restricted to birds, is a multifarious subject, and it is also a puzzling one. So far as real belief in its tales and proverbs is concerned, we feel sure that most of our friends and neighbors are immune, yet the lore lives on, being passed, whether credited or not, from generation to generation.

God Birds:

There is an impression (which has brought me several inquiries) that some of our birds have names involving that of the Deity, but, so far as I have learned, that is not really true of any bird in the United States. Godwit, an English name anyway, traces to Anglo-Saxon words meaning good wight or good thing, i.e. to eat. Several names of the Pileated Woodpecker, apparently embodying the name, god, have quite another origin. A common general name of the bird is logcock, and from this, through mishearing, come lord god and lord guard; and so, "woodcock" gives rise to wood god. The style started, additions came along, but their source is the same and they have no real deistic reference. What may be thought of as the standard series of these names include: lordcock, log god, good god, lord god, and wood god, while more extravagant terms are: do lord, god almighty, great god, lord god almighty, and oh my god. (For further discussion of these appellations, see McAtee, American Speech, May, 1951, pp. 93-94.)

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker bore some of these titles but its almost extinct status forbids consideration of any of its names as current. Those including the word "god" are good god, log god, and lord god; besides these, "golly bird" is only an euphemism for "god bird."

Magic:

That magic is practiced in our age may seem unbelievable, yet folklore recorded by living persons provides evidence that it is. A clear-cut example is the keeping of flint rock or a horseshoe in the fire to drive hawks away from poultry. The cries of owls are widely regarded as of ill omen, but according to folklore, a number of remedies are at hand to silence the owl or to take off the curse. Among these are throwing salt or iron in the fire; especially if the bird is on the chimney the salt will burn its tail and cause it to leave; heating a poker red hot will burn its toes and it will quit hooting in order to seek water to cure the burn. Throwing a "chunk of fire" out the window is said to avail and, simpler yet, laying a broom across the door. Other remedies are: tying a knot in one's handkerchief; turning pockets or whole garments wrong side out; and turning shoes upside down, especially with their toes under the bed.

If a Whip-poor-will alights on your doorstep and sings, it is likely to bring bad luck. You should throw fire at it, and it will not return. If you

* Virginia to Florida and Alabama; no records from west of the mountains have been used in this paper.

hear a Mourning Dove around your house, some one in the house will die unless you tie a knot in each corner of your apron. Then the dove will stop mourning and will go away.

"Making a wish" is a form of magic known to all from childhood and from the perusal of nursery tales. With the aid of birds in certain cases, fulfillment is assured. If you see a lone buzzard, (vulture) make a wish before it flaps its wings and your wish will come to pass. Some believe that if the bird flaps, the wish will come true, if it doesn't, the reverse. In the Spring, when you hear the first Whip-poor-will, lie down and roll over, meanwhile making a wish, and it will certainly be fulfilled. A more complicated ceremony is: you must roll over three times, then reach over your left shoulder and pick up the first thing you touch. Put this under your pillow at night, go to sleep lying on your right side, and whatever you dream will surely be realized.

To see spirits—an advanced degree in magic—break a rain-crow's (cuckoo's) egg in water and wash your face in it.

Omens:

More than half of the magical practices cited are directed against omens. The latter constitute a substantial proportion of folklore and many of them have reference to birds. Omens are portents or indicators of fate or "luck", some of it, fortunately, being good. Though contrary to most folklore, the belief is reported from Alabama that if a bird flies into the house it brings good luck. Taking up other instances by the kind of bird involved, we hear of the vulture, that if one flies over your house you are going to get a letter or hear good news. If you see the shadow of a vulture without seeing the bird, an unexpected visitor will arrive. If, when you hear the first dove cooing in the Spring, you are standing up, your luck will be good. If the auditor be an unmarried woman, she should take nine steps forward and then nine steps backward, all without speaking. Then she should take off her right shoe and in it she will find a hair from her future husband's head.

If a woodpecker fly over a house, the family will move soon; if a Mockingbird, some one is going to be married. If you see a redbird fly across the road, you have a letter in the post office; if you see one on Saturday you will be sure to see your sweetheart next day. That would surely be good luck, but most of the bird omens tend in the opposite direction. "Tokens" or apparitions supposed to presage death are the most common. "Bird peckin' on winder, death a-comin' ", they say in the mountains. Also if a bird flies in a window at night and makes a circle about the lamp, the member of the family nearest the lamp will die within the year. Other beliefs, pertaining to just any bird rather than to a species are: if a bird dies in your hand you will get the weak trembles and drop everything you take hold of. If a bird weaves a hair of your head into its nest, you will have headaches until that nest falls to pieces; and if ever a bird builds in your shoe or jacket, you may prepare to die that year.

Passing to the species-connected lore, we find that seeing an eagle feeding with vultures is a sign of death, and, very explicitly, if a vulture fly over a house at twelve o'clock, some member of the family will die at four. If a white crane (i.e., one of the white herons or egrets) circles over

a home three times, there will soon be a death, and "tain't no good to kill de crane after he done fly over de roof er de house and call for a corpse."

So pleasant to bird-lovers, the cooing of the dove is a portent to those steeped in folklore. When hearing the first dove in the new year, if you are going up hill you will have good luck all the year; if down, the reverse. It is bad luck to hear the first cooing in the Spring, unless you happen to be standing at the time. If you are lying down, you will be sick the remainder of the year; or, if sitting, you will be "ailing". Some fear that a dove's mourning around the house foretells death, and others believe that a dove's fluttering in front of a person is a very bad sign.

Owls have almost everywhere been regarded as birds of evil omen, and in the Southeast this feeling is concentrated on the "Screech Owl," though it is not certain that this means only the species so-called by ornithologists. Its cry is supposed to betoken bad luck or even death, especially if given by a bird perched on the roof or "hollerin' " about a sick-room; if the bird flies into that room, a fatal result is certain. Some think the "conversational" notes of owls at night are the talk of "ole folks", that is, ghosts.

The calling of the Whip-poor-will is almost as widely believed to be portentous as is that of owls—a material factor in both cases, no doubt, being that they are birds of darkness, and thus mysterious. If you hear a whip-poor-will when starting on a journey, there is danger ahead. The chanting of these birds near the house brings bad luck, and if on the threshold, it means death.

Some of the folklore may provide a degree of bird protection. To break up a Killdeer's nest, for instance, is a sign that you will break a limb; and if you molest a Ground Dove's nest, you will be "mourned to death" by the grieving pair. A legend prevalent over wide areas and relating to various species of birds, is that if the farmer or any of his family kill them, the cows will give bloody milk; it has been reported from Alabama for the Robin. It is regarded in the Southeast as bad luck to kill a vulture, dove, bee martin (Kingbird), Bluebird, thrush, Mockingbird, or Goldfinch; and, in western North Carolina, as seven years bad luck to kill a Raven. If you kill a Screech Owl, some of your kinfolks will be hurt or killed within a year.

Medicinal Uses:

These uses mostly are not compatible with bird protection, but they are probably now in large degree obsolete. For a veritable treatise on them, see John Brickell's *"The Natural History of North Carolina"*, originally published in 1737, but of which there was a Raleigh reprint in 1911. Only a few, from other sources, are here cited. Wearing a vulture feather behind the ear will prevent rheumatism. John Clayton in 1693 writing from Virginia, stated that "the Fat [of the turkey buzzard] . . . dissolved in Oil, is recommended mightily against old Aches and Sciatica Pains". And he added of the Pileated Woodpecker, that the tongue "dryed will make the Teeth drop out if picked therewith, and will cure the Toothach". There is recorded a belief of families formerly living in the Okefenokee Swamp that stuttering can be cured by eating Mockingbird eggs.

Weather Portents:

When Man-o'-War Birds fly inland, it is an indication of a severe blow,

perhaps a hurricane. Vultures flying high, also, forecast a storm. "When the fish hawks (Ospreys) come north, winter's over." "Hoot owl: sign uh fallin' weather." On the other hand, the cooing of a turtle-dove presages warm, clear days. Very widely, cuckoos are known as rain-crows, and Alexander Wilson, long ago (1811), noted that they are "most clamorous immediately before rain". After Whip-poor-wills come, there is no more frost, and this bird's calling is a sign of warm, clear weather. The coming of Redheaded Woodpeckers and yellow-hammers (or Flickers) also assures farmers that planting time is at hand. Unusual vociferation by Woodpeckers indicates rain; and "Crows a-gatherin' up, goin' uh be cold".

Miscellaneous:

Brown Pelican. "The Gall of this Bird cleanses Silver". (Brickell, op. cit., p. 211.)

Gannet. "His fat or grease is as yellow as saffron, and the best thing known to preserve fire arms from rust". (John Lawson, History of Carolina, 1714, p. 246.)

Man-o'-War Bird. The name "poison bird" is given them by fishermen who believe that the bird drops something which stupefies fish and makes them easy for the bird to catch. (H. H. Bailey, Birds of Florida, 1925, p. 19.)

Turkey Vulture. "Buzzards never build a nest, lay in other birds' nests. Birds tell um to build. When the sun shines [buzzard] says, 'What's de use of buildin' a nest? Sun shine'. When it rains [buzzard] says 'Build when de rain stop'. Never does build a nest." (Portia Simley, Journ. Amer. Folklore, 32, 1919, p. 374.)

Osprey. Mark Catesby in the *Natural History of Carolina* (1731, p. 2) after telling how the Bald Eagle forces the fishing hawk to drop its prey, which the Eagle then catches, adds: "It is remarkable, that whenever the Hawk catches a Fish, he calls, as it were, for the Eagle; who always obeys the call, if within hearing." The **Osprey-Eagle** relationship was explained as follows by Mammy Caroline of Virginia. "At firs' de fish hawk couldn' build a nes' but he could catch fish. De eagle couldn't catch fish but he could build a nes'. So dey all had a 'greement. De eagle 'greed to show de fish hawk how to build a nes' if de fish hawk would show de eagle how to catch fish. So de eagle done showed de fish hawk how to build de nes', and den de fish hawk went back on his 'greement, and wouldn't show de eagle hot to catch a fish. An' dey all say dat from dat day to dis, de eagle gets every fish he can whut de fish hawk catches" (Ethel M. Towns, Audubon Bul., Illinois Audubon Soc. 18, 1927, p. 22.) A Roanoke Island, N. C., explanation of the matter is: in the beginning, "Coming as a stranger from overseas, the fish hawk flew about inspecting the country. At length he came to an eagle sitting on a mountain. Going up to the eagle he said, 'I've been lookin' around and I'm thinkin' of settlin' here'. 'All right', replied the eagle, 'but you'll have to give me half your livin' if you do'. And that is why the fish hawk pays tribute to the eagle." (McAtee, Journ. Amer. Folklore, 1947, p. 86.)

Sora Rail. The sudden appearance and disappearance of these birds, together with their apparently weak flight, give rise to peculiar beliefs, as: "that they bury themselves in the mud [in winter] or . . . . . change into frogs." [James River, Virginia]. (Alexander Wilson, Amer. Orn., Vol.

VI, 1812, p. 28.) George Ord, in the same volume (p. 39) adds: "I have heard it observed, that on the increase of the moon, the Rail improves in fatness, and decreases in a considerable degree with that Planet."

American Coot. C. S. Brimley records the belief in eastern North Carolina that the blue peters turn into bullfrogs in the summer (Orn. and Ool., 14, 1889, pp. 108-109).

Carolina Parakeet. "Their Guts is certain and speedy poison to cats." (Catesby, Nat. Hist. Carolina, I, 1731, p. 11). "They lie hidden in the Winter, when the Weather is extream hard and frosty, and never appear all that time." (Brickell, Nat. Hist. N. C., 1731, Raleigh reprint, 1911, p. 179.)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. "In the Winter . . . . .they hide themselves in hollow Trees, and their Feathers come off, and they are Scabby." (Op. cit., pp. 179-180.) This lore is borrowed from that of the European Cuckoo.

Barred Owl. On Roanoke Island, N. C., this owl's call is rendered as:

Who cooks, who cooks, who cooks for you all?
Sammy Jones, Polly Stone, and the Devil knows who all!
(McAtee, Journ. Amer. Folklore, 1947, p. 87.)

Pileated Woodpecker. In the Roanoke, N. C. country, where this bird is known as the red-headed woodcock, it is said that a witch flew out of a window, tied a red bandana about her head and became the woodcock. (loc. cit.)

Carolina Wren. Wren folklore probably concerns whatever species is most common at the given place and time; thus in the Southeast the Carolina Wren would be the most likely bird. There is a legend about the wren outwitting the eagle, known from several countries in northwestern Europe and paralleled by an Ojibway Indian story, which also appears in various guises in folklore of the Southeastern States. The Roanoke Island form (loc. cit.) is: "Once there was a contest among birds to determine which could fly the highest. The eagle flew higher than the others but when he started down, a wren that had been sitting on the eagle's back all the time took off and went a little higher. The eagle was infuriated and in a terrifying tone said, 'Hereafter if I ever catch you above the eaves of the houses, I'll swallow you whole.' So nowadays, the wren is never seen any higher than that." The late J. W. P. Smithwick (Oologist, 8, 1891, p. 143) gave an inland North Carolina version, in which the large bird was called merely a hawk. A wren trespassing on that bird's aerial preserves was told it would be eaten if ever again was found flying higher than the fences. Virginia counterpart, as told by Mammy Caroline, is: "De eagle an' de turkey buzzard had a 'spute. Dey 'sputed an' 'sputed over which could fly de highes'. 'Of co'se,' say de eagle, 'evahbody knows dat I can fly de highes' of any bird . . .' So dey bof flew highah an' highah till dey flew as high as any bird can fly, an', of co'se de eagle was de highes'. 'Now, say de eagle, 'you see, I done tol' you I could fly de highes'. But de little ole wren bird had all de time been a hidin' undah de ole eagle's wing, and he flew out and lit on de eagle's haid, and little ole wren bird say, 'No you can't, foh now I is de highes' of any bird whut flies.' Dat made de ole eagle so mad dat he chase dat little wren bird down, down, way down to de cornah of de fence, an' he say, 'Now little wren bird, don' you evah let me catch you any highah dan de fence, or I'll

kill you'. An' I always did heah dat dey nevah do go any highah dan de fence." (Towns, op. cit., pp. 21-22.)

Mockingbird. On Roanoke Island, N. C., there goes a saying that the Mockingbird is the king of all birds in berry time. This rather dominating species is likely to assume control of a well-fruited shrub, tree, or group of them and attempt to keep other birds away. (McAtee, Jour. Amer. Folklore, 1947, p. 87.)

Catbird. In Bay Quarter, Virginia, this was called the snake bird because it chases the snakes away. (Towns, op. cit.)

Bluebird. "These Birds hide themselves in the Winter, so that they are not to be seen at that season." (Brickell, Nat. Hist. Carolina, 1737. Raleigh reprint, 1911, p. 194.)

Boat-tailed Grackle. This "jackdaw" of North Carolina and in fact of its entire Usonian range, on Roanoke Island, has "inherited" a legend about the Old-World jackdaw that traces back to Aesop and is widely known in Europe. Once upon a time the birds had a meeting to pick the handsomest of their kind. The jackdaw collected cast-off feathers and dressed up in them. However, as soon as the other birds saw him, they pulled off his disguise, crying, "Why it's only the jackdaw after all." (McAtee, loc. cit.)

Slate-colored Junco. C. S. Brimley said that he had frequently been asked (presumably by North Carolinians) whether snowbirds did not turn into Sparrows in Summer. (Orn. and Vol. 14, 1889, p. 109.)

Ditties:

De fish-hawk kotch'd a big fat mullet
But it foun' its way down de eagle's gullet.

De buzzard and de crow went ter de wa'
One mo' ribber fer ter cross;
De crow came back wid a broken ja
One mo' ribber for ter cross.

A bullfrog dressed in soger's close
Went in de field to shoot some crows,
De Crows smell powder and fly away,
De bullfrog mighty mad dat day.

High-hole in de holler tree
He poke his bill in for to see
De lizard cotch him by de snout
He call for someone to pull him out.

Succeed to da red buhds
An' likewise de wren;
Hope heaven will take care of de ladies,
De Devil take care of the men.

BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

It should prove to be very interesting to note the effect the late freeze through the Carolinas had on the birdlife. Please look for any variations in nesting. Were the eggs in early nests frozen? If so, the broods of Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and possibly Carolina Wrens might be late in appearing in our yards. What about the migratory birds? The Summer Tanagers have already been searching our mulberry trees for fruit that was frozen. Our fig trees seem to be killed to the ground, although there are new shoots putting out at the bottom. Birds that ordinarily found food on these trees will have to look elsewhere. The drought of last summer and the consequent shortage of food in the shape of berries and fruit or nuts had brought about a shifting of birds in search of something to eat during this past winter.

Mr. Ellison Williams, writing in the "Lesser Squawk", has the following to say about Waxwings in the city of Charleston:

No doubt all birders . . . as well as automobile owners . . . have noted the enormous numbers of Cedar Waxwings in the city this winter. I do not remember seeing as many of these birds in the city in my life time. I am wondering whether the recent dry season has reduced the berry crop in the country, causing the Waxwings to come into the city looking for food earlier than usual and in greater numbers—or whether the Waxwing population has increased considerably in the past year.

I have a birdbath that holds five gallons of water and these Waxwings seem to be thirsty all the time. I have had to refill my birdbath three times some days. These birds appear to drink it dry, rather than to use the water for bathing.

One cold morning recently the bath froze solid and I found the ice covered with birds trying to get a drink. Taking a watering pot and slowly filling the bath, I was delighted to have dozens of the little birds come and drink within inches of me. As many as thirty at a time will light on the rim of the cement bath to take a few mouthfuls of water before flying off to make room for others. When hundreds of Waxwings settle in the trees in the yard there is a continual coming and going that always intrigues me.

As these birds will eat nearly all the berries in the city before they leave, I am wondering whether we will have the large influx of Robins that we had last March and whether they will be able to stay with us as long.

Last winter, Mrs. Charles sent in the following, which I think is unusual:

In mid-morning of October 5, while I was busy in the kitchen and the

English Sparrows, Towhees and Pine Warblers were busy at the birdbath and feeder some twenty feet from the window, I glimpsed a larger bird as it flew from an oak limb above and perched for a moment against the trunk of the oak, then flew back into the leafy branches. What sort of woodpecker is that? I wondered.

A small dead limb of the oak extends out over the birdbath and the hanging feeder. I have forbidden anyone concerned in cutting dead limbs, to cut this one because a bird perching on it can be seen so clearly.

I waited a minute or so for the reappearance of the larger bird. Then it came down and perched on the dead limb. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and it was apparently showing interest either in the fresh water on that hot, dry morning, or in the biscuit crumbs and cracked hickory nuts on the feeder.

In my seventeen years of bird watching I had never seen a cuckoo take a bath or eat from a bird feeder. I looked on with great interest.

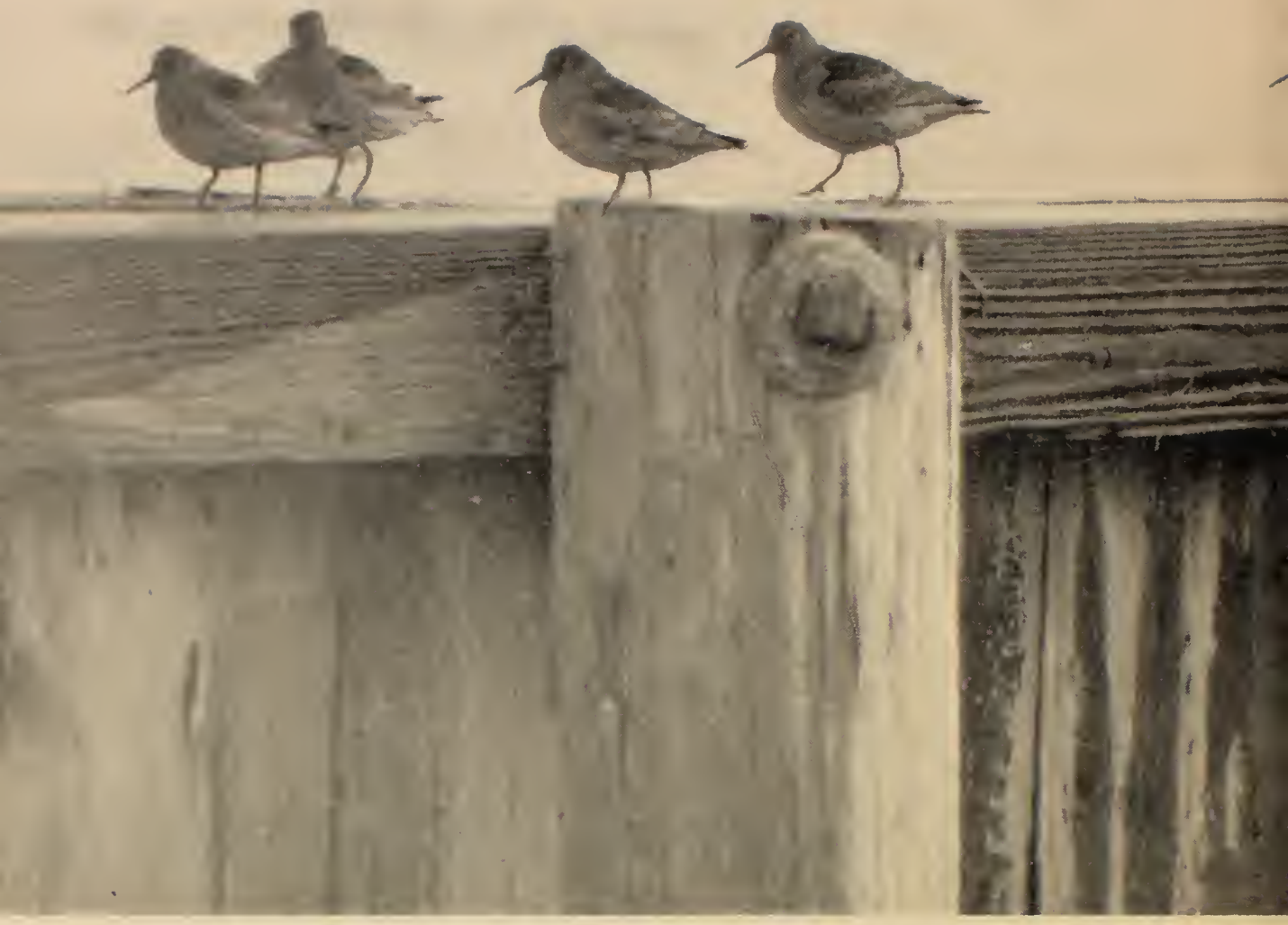
The bird hesitated perhaps two or three minutes. Then it flew down to the rim of the bowl of water, picked up what looked like a worm, gave it a few vigorous shakes, swallowed it and turned its attention to the water and drank several swallows as if very thirsty. It hesitated again a minute or two while repeatedly spreading and refolding the feathers of its tail. Finally its mind was made up and it took one hurried fluttering dip followed by another and another for half a dozen times or more. It then flew away and did not return.

I have often wondered about that Cuckoo's perching woodpecker fashion on a tree trunk. Also about the possibility of a worm having been found on the rim of the birdbath which I had so recently filled with fresh water. When I went out later in the morning I found two blackish caterpillars like we see on oak leaves in autumn, crawling on the cement bowl near the water's edge. Then I knew what had attracted the Cuckoo.

Has anyone else among our readers had a Yellow-billed Cuckoo take a dip in a bird bath, either without or with caterpillars as an added attraction?

From Durham, North Carolina, Mrs. Reginald Kepler makes the following report:

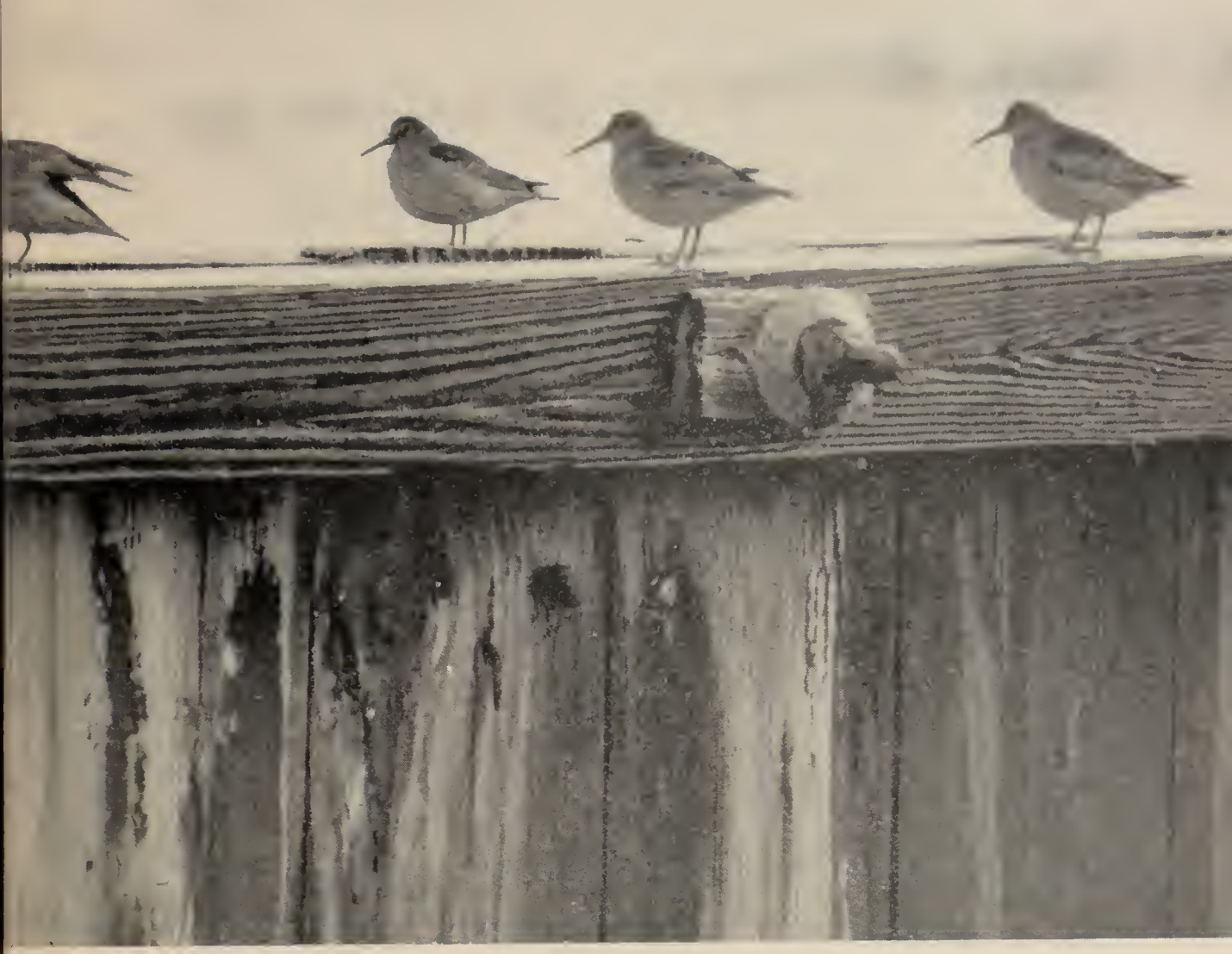
What a winter for birds this last has been! Never again will I cut down the pods of the *Bignonia Radicans*, or common trumpet vine, festooned on the big pines outside the studio window, for this winter they have brought two new birds to my attention. In mid-December a large flock of seventy-five or more Pine Siskins suddenly settled on the hanging pods. On March 25 I noticed a small bird investigating the pods. Finding them empty he flew to a hanging log feeder containing a fat, peanut butter and cornmeal mix. I immediately spotted him as something different, and training the binoculars his way, found him to be a Red-breasted Nuthatch, which I have never seen in this area, a new bird for my list. He was easily identified because of the dark eye-stripe, plain blue-gray back, and rust wash on the underparts. Also, I noticed in contrast to the White-breasted Nuthatches he did not feed upside down at the feeder. We have had hundreds of Evening Grosbeaks, a new bird to most people in this area. Because I write a bird column for the *Sunday Herald*, and write of the birds seen currently, I received from January 12 to the present time (March 25) probably fifty calls from people who inquired, "What are these beautiful birds?" One woman said, "I had just read your column on the Evening Grosbeaks, put down the paper looked out the window, and there at my feeders and in the yard, were about twenty Grosbeaks, the first time in my life I had ever seen them." They have been here in large numbers, are very widespread in town and county. During the cold weather I had as many as eight Bluebirds at the feeders all at one time, a record; and Hermit Thrushes came directly to the feeders for the first time. To cap the climax, with a flock of Slate-colored Juncos, there arrived an almost pure-white albino Junco (All white except outer-wing feathers and a few tail feathers). He has become almost a pet, coming many times daily to the feeders, and at present (March 25) is still with us.



Purple Sandpipers On Parade

Up to a very few years ago the Purple Sandpiper was an extremely rare visitor on the South Atlantic coast. Bent (1927) refers to it as a hardy northern bird of Europe, Asia, and northeastern North America, wintering farther north than any other wader, and scarcely known below the rocky New England coast. As with several other species, there have been rather drastic changes in distribution recently, and we are now finding this sandpiper in favorable spots along the Carolina and Georgia coasts, even during abnormally mild winters.

At Wilmington, a rock ledge and an artificial jetty, exposed at low



tides, have attracted them. At Charleston, the granite harbor jetties and breakwaters offer the required feeding ground. On Tybee Beach, near Savannah, this unusual photograph by Ivan R. Tomkins shows them on a wooden breakwater, or groin, with the open Atlantic Ocean as a natural backdrop. The end of this groin dips into the sea, and at that point, along the top or breakers. Tomkins, longtime contributor to the *Auk* and at its base on the beach, these birds feed barely beyond reach of the other journals, was the first to find Purple Sandpipers wintering in Georgia. That was during the winter of 1949 and 1950.

(Permission to use Ivan Tomkins' photograph of Purple Sandpipers, given by *Nature Magazine.*)

EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements
Authors, Members, Letters
Items of Interest

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Douglas Wade, Education Division, South Carolina Wildlife Resources Dept., will edit the September issue of *The Chat*. All correspondence and matters relative to the September issue should be mailed direct to him at 3403 Duncan Street, Columbia, S. C.

Doug edited the *New Hampshire Audubon Bulletin* for six years while he was teaching at Dartmouth College, and is at present Associate Editor of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine. Since living in Columbia both he and Mrs. Wade have been of invaluable assistance to the editor.

We are always glad to hear from Mrs. G. E. Charles, of Aynor, South Carolina, who writes as follows:

Mrs. L. E. Thomas and her Biology class of twenty boys and girls from Aynor High School joined me in celebrating "Wildlife Week" at my home on March 25. The event was a "house-raising". A 22-foot pole supporting a Martin house was lifted into place by several men, leaving eighteen feet extended above the ground. We placed the pole at the side of the vegetable garden. This done, Mrs. Thomas and her class then followed me to the yard where they sat about on the grass and pine straw and listened attentively while I talked about the Purple Martin, telling them of its feeding habits, its breeding habits, its migration, etc. I then invited them to come for another visit when the Martins set up housekeeping. With the promise that they would be delighted to do this, and with expressions of thanks and appreciation, they returned to their classroom.

The Passenger Pigeon. Schorger, A. W., University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 424 pp., 22 Figures, Feb. 28, 1955. $7.50. This illustrated book is an authentic and detailed account of the Passenger Pigeon, its natural history and extinction. It is fully indexed and annotated, with a list of 2200 references compiled at the end of the book. The Passenger Pigeon is discussed from early accounts through behavior, utilization, methods of capture, anatomy and distribution, to late records and evaluation of illustrations. Mr. Schorger accepts as the very last record of the capture of a Passenger Pigeon in the wild, a specimen taken at Sargents, Ohio, on March 24, 1900. He lists a specimen taken by Cairns in Buncombe County, North Carolina, but he says that no specimen from South Carolina is known to exist, although he mentions several sight records for both Carolinas. He describes the accounts of Sir Walter Raleigh, Cotton Mather, James Fenimore Cooper, as well as those of Audubon, Wilson, Brewster and other ornithologists. Conservationists and students of history will value the wealth of information in Mr. Schorger's book.—ROBERT OVERING.

SOUTHERN ACCENTS

Robert Davis Edwards

These are some of the notes and impressions of a pair of bird students who spent nearly all of their early years in New England and New York state, learning to know the ways and the songs of the birds of that region, and then five years ago, took up their residence in the South Carolina low country near the mouth of the Santee river, a region which is especially rich in bird life the year around. Finding there much that was new and strange to them, one of the first things they noticed (speaking from the yankee point of view) was that even a bird can have a "southern accent" although it isn't necessarily Dixie's proverbial honeyed drawl.

In fact, the earliest impression of these New England bird watchers who happened to visit the Carolina coastal region in late spring, is that its native bird songs, taken as a whole, are louder and perhaps a little harsher than those he is accustomed to hear at home. At least that was our impression and that of many of our visitors from the North during the past five years. A cypress swamp or a southern pine, oak and gum woods seems to be a very noisy place indeed in contrast to a northern forest. Your northerner is apt particularly to miss the soft and melodious hymns of the various thrushes. Except for a rare Wood Thrush which we at "Ardea" have to travel several miles to hear, there is nothing quite like them in the low country, no bird song that even remotely compares with the evening chant of the Hermit Thrush.

On the other hand, he soon discovers that the "loudness" is partly an illusion—as much a matter of quantity as of quality. There seem to be more singing birds per acre in this part of the South. Nesting territories are apparently smaller and closer together, presumably because of the lush vegetation and greater abundance of insects and other food. It is a common experience, for example, to hear two or three Orchard Orioles caroling in one grove, to find four male Prothonotary Warblers singing along two hundred yards of road through a cypress swamp or see two pairs of Carolina Wrens nesting in or near a single farm yard. In the North we cannot remember a warbler ever singing during the nesting season within hearing distance of another of the same species.

Also the northerner is accustomed to a drastic letdown in bird activity and song during the middle of the day. You will hear many a New England bird student remark that the bird day is all over by 8 a.m. Down here on the other hand, we have discovered that there is relatively little midday letdown in bird activity; many birds continue to sing, although usually at longer intervals between songs, right through the day until dusk. There is, it is true, a dawn chorus usually initiated by the Cardinals and Wrens, but it starts a little later here than it does in the North and it does not shut off abruptly before midmorning. In fact, it doesn't really shut off at all but simply slows down to a more leisurely pace for the rest of the day, with a few species dropping out for an hour or so in the early afternoon. Why should this be? We have never been able to think of a possible reason. (Let me say again here that I am speaking of our strictly local experiences on

the South Carolina coast which may not be at all representative of conditions in higher inland country).

However, the most interesting things your New Englander will notice when he begins to study the individual roles in the low country bird chorus, are differences between the songs and call notes of northern and southern races of the same species or closely related forms. Some of these differences are quite striking, evident even to an untrained ear, although they have never, as far as we have been able to determine, been written about in books. Others are more subtle and difficult to describe, but careful comparison indicate that they do definitely exist and can be recognized in the field.

Our first month's stay one spring during the height of the nesting season at "Ardea" (which I might explain is our name for the old chunk of piney woods and marsh on which we live) gave us an ideal opportunity to check and compare our accumulated notes on bird songs in the South. Then a hasty return to western Massachusetts at the end of May permitted us again to make careful comparisons with northern versions while the southern renditions were still fresh in memory. Perhaps one of the most surprising discoveries we were able to check and confirm on that particular trip was a variation in the singing of New England and Carolina low country Red-eyed Vireos.

Our first suspicion that the southern Red-eye might have a song which differed from that of the northern species came one May morning on Bulls Island when we heard one "preaching" in the top of a loblolly pine tree. We jotted down "Red-eyed Vireo" on our list and were about to pass on when we were struck by a curious *churr-churr* note which this bird repeated at frequent intervals, and began to wonder if we could have perhaps some other species of Vireo in view. Our bird continued to sing with hardly a pause for breath for nearly twenty minutes. We studied him carefully; he was indubitably a Red-eye and most of his notes and phrases were typical of his kind, but nearly every third or fourth phrase was this lower pitched, monotone *churr-churr*, having almost the quality of an "aside" in his speech or a response from his audience. His song might have been phrased: *Hear me? —do you see me? churr-churr—did he hear it?—you hear it?—churr-churr—* etc.

During the remainder of that and subsequent springs we listened with care. Every Red-eyed Vireo we have heard on the South Carolina coast from Edisto Island to Myrtle Beach introduced the *churr-churr* phrase in its song and always distinctly although usually at somewhat longer intervals than the first Bulls Island bird. On our trips to the North since then we have re-checked the Red-eyed Vireo songs up there and not once have we heard the southerner's *churr-churr*—only rarely a single low note slightly resembling it. It is interesting that the taxonomists have made no subspecific divisions in *Vireo olivaceus*. We wonder if the Tennessee or Ohio birds sing like those in Massachusetts or like these at "Ardea" or Bulls Island, or if they have some unique notes of their own. The Red-eye is a very common summer bird in Massachusetts and, by long odds, the most abundant of his family there. He is common enough in the Carolina low country but there he shares the stage with the equally numerous Yellow-throated and, at "Ardea," the even more abundant White-eyed Vireos. So far, I might add,

we have been unable to detect any notable differences between the songs of the southern and northern Yellow-throated Vireos.

Our chickadee at "Ardea" is, of course, the Carolina form, *Parus carolinensis*, regarded as specifically distinct from the northern Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*. The latter is slightly larger, with somewhat more white in the wing feathers and with other minor distinctions, but it would certainly be difficult for an amateur positively to distinguish these two Chickadees in the field. Their songs and calls do differ, however, although we positively do not agree with the books that say the Carolina Chickadee's "phoebe" song is always doubled to four notes—*dee-dee, dee-dee*. The Chickadees at "Ardea" and everywhere else we have heard them along the coast, give a two-syllabled call; we do not recall ever having heard it doubled. It is just like the northern Black-cap's in pitch and tone but each syllable is noticeably more prolonged and starts with a very plain "pts" or "tsw" sound and has a faint consonant ending, thus: *ptseeeer, ptseeer* or *tsweeeet, tsweeet*. The Black-cap's song, on the other hand, has no detectable consonant sound—only a clear, liquid whistle.

The books do describe the *chick-a-dee* call of the Carolina form perfectly; i.e., as more hurried and at a slightly higher pitch than the Black-cap's—more staccato and with more of a mechanical effect.

The Great Crested Flycatcher at "Ardea" is presumably the southern subspecies, *Myarchus crinitus crinitus*. He seems to be a much noisier bird than the *M. c. boreous* of New England. The most often heard call of the latter is the familiar *Wheeps*, with only rarely an outburst of other notes. The southern bird seems to have a much larger repertoire of strident calls and uses them constantly, in fact almost incessantly, with only an occasional *Wheeps*.

Another interesting difference appears in the songs of the Yellow-throats. The Yellow-throat of New England swamps and brooksides sings: *witchity, witchity, witchity* or *ta-witchity, witchity, witch*. He says it rapidly and emphatically. At "Ardea" we have a few of the "northern" Yellow-throats with us in winter and hear them sing frequently, but they leave for the North in late March or early April. The breeding birds that arrive about that same time and remain for the summer are presumed to be either the Athens Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis trichas typhicola*, or the Florida Yellow-throat, *G. t. ignota;* we are not sure which but those we have been able to study at close range appear to answer best to the description of the latter. In any event, our summer birds at "Ardea" sing: *witchity-wee-o, witchity-wee-o*. These notes are spoken more slowly and with less staccato effect than in the northern song. Sometimes we hear a three or four-syllable phrase twice repeated as is customary with the northern race, but usually it is the typical slower five-syllable phrase repeated only once.

Among the common nesting Warblers at "Ardea," three of them—the Pine, Prairie and Yellow-breasted Chat—are presumed to be of the same race as those that breed in Massachusetts. Another two—the Southern Parula and Wayne's (the southern Black-throated Green)—are represented by different subspecies in New England. So far as we have been able to tell, the songs of all five coastal birds are practically indistinguishable from those heard in the North. Although perhaps we should add that we have heard

only one form of song from the Wayne's Warbler—a form which seems to be identical with one of the several forms sung by its northern cousin.

The Indigo Bunting down here has always baffled us a bit. Accustomed to his song in the North, we have only to hear him "out of the corner of the ear," so to speak, to name him at once and with no trace of doubt as to his identity. But here in the South there is something about his song that causes us often to say, "Sounds like an Indigo Bunting, but we'd better check". The difference is hard to pin down but our impression is that the northern bird sings a tighter, more standardized and slightly more emphatic song, while his southern cousin has a looser, more primitive, and perhaps, a little "lazier" version. We wonder if others have noticed this or if we are just "hearing things".

Some say they can distinguish the southern White-eyed Towhee from northern Red-eyed Towhee by their songs. We have studied and compared, and think that the White-eyed's may perhaps tend to break down more quickly into a diminishing trill at the end. Thus, the northern bird says, *Drink your tea*, while the South Carolina coastal singer (the White-eyed subspecies) sometimes says, *Drink your ti-tipple*. But both vary a great deal; the northern version can be heard occasionally at "Ardea" in summer, and vice-versa. One could never be sure of identification from the song alone.

When it comes to call notes, however, there is a striking difference. The Red-eyed Towhee says, *Che-wink*, in two very plain syllables, while the White-eyed runs them together in a drawled, *Schreeee*. Incidentally, the Red-eyed form is the common winter bird at "Ardea," with rarely a laggard White-eye at that season, while from April on until fall only the White-eye is found there. We think the difference in their call notes is a dependable means of field identification in winter.

The Baltimore Oriole of northern elms and the Orchard Oriole of southern pines are, of course, entirely distinct species, differing radically in coloration and habits as well as song. But song comparisons are tempting to make, and we have noticed one distinguishing feature which, although it is sometimes implied, does not seem to be sufficiently stressed in any of the standard guides. The Baltimore Oriole improvises; the tone and quality of his notes are characteristic but he strings them together in a great variety of tunes, some long and some short. Seldom are any two songs of the same bird exactly alike. The Orchard Oriole, on the other hand, follows the score; he settles on a tune he likes, usually about four bars long, and sings it over and over again with only trivial variations. Which is not to say that he isn't a good musician; his song is loud and clear and full of the joy of life. All of the Orchard Orioles around "Ardea" start their songs with the first four notes of that tune made popular years ago by Guy Lombardo, "In a little Spanish town". This seems to be a strictly local trait, however, since we haven't heard it anywhere else.

A few other comparisons: the Catbirds in the Carolina low country seem to be quieter birds, more secretive than up North. We think they sing more softly and that their songs are less protracted, but perhaps our impression is due to inevitable contrast with the South's ubiquitous and uninhibited Mockingbird.

The Nighthawk of the South, on the other hand, appears to be noisier,

more diurnal in his habits, than those we knew in the North—active and vocal at all hours of the day. His "Bronx cheer" is heard here even more often around noon than at dusk; in New England the Nighthawks are seldom seen or heard until late afternoon.

The southern Blue Jay also invites comparison with his northern relatives. He is paler in color, a fact which many of our visiting friends from the North have remarked, and his repertoire of calls seems to us to be more extensive—like the southern Great Crested Flycatcher in that respect. The Jay's most frequently heard call around "Ardea" resembles the cry of the Red-shouldered Hawk, a call which we rarely heard from the Jays in New England even in territories where the hawk is common. On the other hand, the musically whistled *tuweedle, tuweedle* which is a very common note of the northern Jay is heard rather infrequently at "Ardea" and differs radically in quality. I am sure I could distinguish northern from southern Blue Jays by this call alone although I don't know how I could go about describing the difference.

Another feature of bird sounds which has intrigued us since we moved South, is the variety of winter notes and flock calls of the northern birds which visit us in winter—notes and calls we never heard on their nesting grounds in the North. Our first knowledge of these came during our first autumn spent at "Ardea." We heard then, coming from brushy woods, a *whit, whit, whit* which was more like the alarm note of the Robin than anything else with which we were acquainted. It took us several days to run it down and thoroughly satisfy ourselves that it was produced by White-throated Sparrows. We call it the Robin note of the White-throat. Those of you who are so familiar with the friendly White-throat as a constant customer at your feeders from October until May, probably have always known and identified this call without a second thought, but to us, even though we knew the White-throat well in his summer home, it was new and strange.

Another such winter call which we have never heard up North comes from the Towhee. It is a soft but strident, buzzy *zeeeee* which is usually heard from the depths of a thicket and seems to be a sort of petulant complaint or minor alarm note.

In closing, let me make it doubly plain that the foregoing notes on southern bird songs apply only to the coastal region of South Carolina, and especially to the vicinity of "Ardea." Perphas one might find as many differences between the bird calls and songs of that low country and the upper Piedmont region, or say, between Charleston and Wilmington, as there are between the former and Massachusetts.

As Mr. Jacobs was showing us trees whose trunks had been cracked wide open by intense cold and had later healed over, we heard a sound of tearing and ripping in a thicket. Then a Pileated Woodpecker plunged up a pine. Every feather of his wild scarlet crest blazed in the sun. The white streak slanting through his eye, the black band up his neck, and his breastplate of coarse iron-gray, more like hair than feathers, made him look like a pirate of the bird kingdom.

He made great *lunges* up the tree. Not hops; it takes a light bird to hop, and he weighed as much as a Ruffed Grouse. On the pine tip he looked around challengingly, gave a whoop, and flew galloping away. He seemed the most untamed creature I ever saw; certainly far more impressive than any bear we encountered. FLORENCE PAGE JAQUES, *Snowshoe Country*, 1944.

GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the alloted space. Barc Lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

As of April 15, reports of coverage of the 1954-55 winter birdlife in the Carolinas is far from complete. A lone **Dickcissell** arrived at Laurinburg during the first week of February and is still taking a handout at a feeder there. **Evening Grosbeaks** are still with us in considerable force in both Carolinas. Details of these and other prolonged winter visits will be presented in our next issue—when the facts are all in. A **White-winged Crossbill** at Lenior and a **Snow Bunting** at Charleston are other highlights of one of our hardest winters in many years.

Brown Pelicans on the Upper Coast in December.—On December 6, 1954, from Raleigh to the coast, we woke up with snow and freezing sleet. My friend Ammie Willis at Davis (Carteret County, N. C.), who takes fishing parties to his camps on the opposite beach strip, was apprehensive and crawled down the wharf to his boat to go to the rescue of the lone fisherman he had left on the beach the night before. When he reached the beach he found the man fishing with fruitful results, since the sea mullets (whiting) were crowding into the wash of the surf. He had caught a half-barrel, and sitting on the beach ledge nearby, were three Brown Pelicans. Ammie was curious as to why these birds sat there at this time of the year and began to investigate. The pelicans walked around but would not fly. After some teasing, each expelled a sea mullet weighing about 1½ pounds from its pouch and then got into the air, turning southward.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 14, 1955.* (This observation is of particular interest in view of the fact that Brown Pelicans did not stay over this winter at the Cape Romain Refuge at McClellanville, S. C., some 200 miles south along the coast.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Avocets in Record Number on Santee Delta, S. C.—On Nov. 15, 1954, Ben Walker, warden for the Santee Club, found a large flock of Avocets resting on a grassy islet in the shallow duck pond known as Jordan Marsh on Cedar Island. Cedar Island is the outermost piece of the Santee River delta, fronting on the ocean and extending from the North to the South Santee mouths, about a mile and a half apart. Its narrow ocean beach is bordered by a strip of wooded high ground, back of which, up-river, extends about three miles of open marsh, several portions of which are diked and maintained as duck ponds by the Santee Club. Mr. Walker was not familiar with the Avocet so he collected a specimen "for the record" but it was found

to be too badly mutilated for preservation. However, the bird was in good plumage (winter) and in good flesh.

Jordan Marsh pond was not being shot over at that time nor for several weeks afterwards, and the Avocets remained there undisturbed. The writer's first opportunity to check up on them came on Nov. 27 when our party was able to drift up to within 60 feet of a flock of 84 of the birds crowded on a small bar in the middle of the pond. In addition to these 84, whose number was carefully verified, another flock of more than 20 flew over and lit on the shore on the far side of the pond—so there were more than 100 Avocets on Cedar Island that day.

They were seen in the same place for about ten days thereafter, when they were evidently frightened away by active duck shooting in the vicinity.

This flock of Avocets is believed to be the largest seen on the coast of South Carolina in many years. Small numbers and single birds have been reported for most recent years, but all of these, so far as the writer knows, showed up in late winter or early spring. A flock of 18 was found on Winyah Bay in March, 1953 and lingered there on the muddy bars near the western shore until mid-May. A single bird showed up on Bulls Island in the late winter of 1953 and remained around a marshy inlet off Bulls Bay until May, giving many birders a chance to add this species to their lists. The Charleston Museum has reports of small flocks of Avocets seen several previous seasons on South Island, the estate of Mr. Tom Yawkey, between Winyah Bay and the North Santee mouth.—ROBERT D. EDWARDS, *Ardea, McClellanville, S. C., Apr. 5, 1955.*

Jaeger in Charleston Harbor.—On Feb. 27, 1955 I enjoyed a trip with members of my family from Charleston to Dewees Inlet through the inland waterway on Francis Hanckel's boat. On the way back, just after entering the harbor, my brother (E. B.) began attracting gulls to the wake of the ship by throwing out pieces of bread. When about halfway across the Cooper River, we spotted a jaeger persistently chasing and harassing one of the gulls at the end of our train, which, by that time numbered above a hundred birds. The jaeger was about 1000 feet away when first seen but luckily it closed in as we kept our glasses on it to within a couple of hundred feet of us, and then dropped back. The sharp tail, with moderately extended central feathers caused us to conclude that it was a Parasitic Jaeger.

This observation was carried in an early April issue of the "Lesser Squawk," bulletin of the Charleston Natural History Society, with the hope that the jaeger might remain in the harbor and be seen again. To date there have been no other reports of it.

The average of the hourly temperature readings for the seven days ending Feb. 27, 1955, at Charleston was 66.3°—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C., Apr. 14, 1955.*

Distribution of Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will: — Older Carolina birders recall with affectionate smiles how Argus-eyed the late A. T. Wayne was for accuracy in ornithology. Not in print, but privately, he once took me to task for placing the Chuck-will's-widow in the Piedmont. But he regarded L. M. Loomis as one of world's greatest ornithologists and Loomis' records backed mine. It was a beginner's victory. The recent note from the Chamberlains *(Chat* 18:70, #3, 1954) recalls the very interesting problem of the recession of the Whip-poor-will and the advance of the Chuck-will's-widow. Probably around the 1860's Jacob Martin and Kate Wigginton heard this bird in the Six-and-Twenty Creek area in Anderson County, S. C. Law and politics did not prevent J. B. O'Neall being a good historian and naturalist. In his "Annals of Newberry" (1850-58) on pages 24-25 we read, "It is a singular fact in Natural History that until within the last thirty or thirty-five years, in all that tract of country lying on Bush River and generally west of a line from the mouth of Bush River to the mouth of Indian Creek, the night-bird, whose cry sounds, 'Whip-poor-Will' was that generally heard: now and then a solitary Chuck-Will's-Widow, commonly called the 'Dutch Whip-poor-Will' enlivened the night. The former bird is now

never heard in any part of the district [county] where I have had the opportunity of observing. It sometimes salutes me like an old acquaintance about Laurens. The latter bird is now universal with us. The popular notion was that it travelled westward with the Germans. [Such people settled Dutch Fork]. I presume, however the true solution is that the Whip-poor-Will proper is a more solitary bird, and as the forest falls, and settlements become more dense, like the buffalo it passes on and the latter bird, less solitary takes its place." T. J. Kirkland and R. M. Kennedy in their "History of Camden" (1926) confirm this shift. The Whip-poor-will had not been heard for forty years and had been replaced by the Chuck-will's-widow. "What has become of the plaintive cry . . . so familiar to our childhood? The Chuck-widow is not a satisfactory substitute," is added (p. 322). An excellent paper on the northern infiltration of the Chuck-will's-widow, by Evelyn J. Schneider in "Kentucky Warbler" XX:2; 13-19, is in line with more southern observatiions.

Consulting different authorities from the turn of the century to recent years confirms the northern shift of the Chuck-will's-widow. It is pleasant to find that the Whip-poor-will still holds so far south as the Charlotte area. Note Charlotte and vicinity is marked by an abundance of broad-leaf trees. The old Mills Atlas of South Carolina indicates the area above the Fall Line as one of oak and hickory. Denser undergrowth, a more acceptable insect diet, cooler retreats, several such possibilities suggest themselves as making an area more attractive to Whip-poor-wills if broad-leaf in character. On the other hand the Chuck-will's-widow seems expanding into areas beyond the pine belts of the southeastern states. It is a fascinating problem in zoogeography. The Catawba and Peedee rivers seem to penetrate cooler valleys in the mountains than do the Saluda and Savannah and down these cooler air currents would follow giving us a more alpine climate than the Martin, Wigginton, and O'Neall observations were made in, one of whom assured me that Whip-poor-wills were once so common in now deserted areas in northwestern South Carolina that you could scarcely hear the *whips* for the *wills*.—A. L. PICKENS, *Queens College, Charlotte, N. C.*

White-winged Crossbill at Lenoir, N. C.—At about 9:30 a.m., Feb. 9, 1955, a male White-winged Crossbill *(Loxia leucoptera)* appeared at a feeding station in Miss Margaret Harper's yard at Lenoir. The weather was clear and bright and the bird was brilliantly colored. The feeder is located directly before a large living room window and the crossbill was perched within six or eight feet of Miss Harper. It remained long enough for her to carefully check coloring and wing patches. On Feb. 16, at about 2:00 p.m., another, or more likely the same male crossbill, was again at this feeder. This time the sky was overcast and the coloring naturally seemed less brilliant than on the previous visit. The white blotches on the black wings and the black tail were striking. Miss Harper promptly reported her find to the Fred Mays, Tom Parks, and others. It was not found again by that group, however.

On Mar. 21, 1955, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer found a male White-winged Crossbill, possibly the same bird seen previously, at their feeder in another part of Lenoir. This bird was again in plain view near the back door and only a few yards from the observers. It fed in company with a number of Purple Finches and appeared to be eating sunflower seed. It did not remain very long and, to date, has not been seen again. The field markings were readily checked. Mrs. Greer reports that the temperature was about 40° and the time, 7:30 a.m.—*Dept. Ed., Apr. 14, 1955.*

Another Tree Sparrow Sight Record for South Carolina.—On the afternoon of Jan. 22, 1955, during the mid-winter field trip of the Carolina Bird Club on the Santee National Wildlife Refuge (Summerton, S. C.), the writer saw a Tree Sparrow and had it under repeated careful observation, in full view and while perched, for at least ten minutes. This bird was in a mixed flock of other sparrows, largely White-throats, and Juncos, just a short distance north of the Mound Fort near the Refuge headquarters. All observations were made in excellent side-lighting with 12 power Leitz binoculars. It was also seen by James Stephens, Mrs. Theo Hartin, and Mrs. D. E. Wade.

The writer is familiar with Tree Sparrows, having seen them in several northern states over a period of some 20 years. All familiar field marks were carefully noted and called to the attention of the other observers. The writer was even "scolded" for having repeatedly expressed a desire to have a gun handy to collect the bird, knowing that it was still on the South Carolina *Hypothetical List*. During the past three winters in South Carolina the writer has been on the watch for a Tree Sparrow, feeling that sooner or later it would be seen.

This observation was reported to a number of those attending the CBC meeting, and on the next day a small group including E. B. and B. R. Chamberlain, E. von S. Dingle and Harold Peters combed unsuccessfully the area where the bird had been found. The area contained a large number of Juncos, Savannah, Vesper, White-throated, and Song Sparrows—DOUGLAS E. WADE, *Columbia, S. C., Feb. 1, 1955.*

Snow Bunting at Charleston, S. C.—There was a single Snow Bunting *(Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis)* on Fort Sumter National Monument, Charleston, S. C. from Dec. 17, 1954 through Jan. 14, 1955. In the company of several Water Pipits, it spent the day feeding on the fort's grassy eastern slope. At rest, the outstanding field marks showed clearly; the dark rust crown stripe, a rust spot behind the eye, and the rusty shoulder patches. A long white streak running nearly the length of the wing was most confusing until Dec. 25th. On that day, *Land Birds of America* (Murphy and Amadon, 1953) came to our household. The photograph of the Snow Bunting dispelled all doubts.

In flight, the bird was at its very best with boldly flashing white wing patches and white outer tail feathers. But most delightful were the clear, often descending whistles, and the single pitched warble. For weeks the two calls were heard above the ruin as the bird flew from one perch to another. To date, it has not been seen since Jan. 14th.

On Dec. 30, Ellison Williams visited the fort armed with his renowned telescope. The day was perfect; the bunting posed well for a careful study. —ROCK COMSTOCK, *Mt. Pleasant, S. C., Jan. 24, 1955.*

Briefs for the Files.

White Ibis, 3, June 18, and 25, '54; 1, July 23, '54, possibly nested (?), Lake Ellis, N. C., Mr. and Mrs. Matt L. Thompson. **Blue Goose**, 1 adult, 1 imm., Oct. 29, '54, Mr. and Mrs. Matt L. Thompson; **Whistling Swan**, 2, Santee Refuge, Summerton, S. C., Jan. 7, Robt. J. Lemaire. **Canada Goose**, 11 at N. Wilkesboro, Mar. 16, Wendell P. Smith; 1 on Eastover Christmas count, Dec. 27, '54, Mrs. W. H. Faver, **Snow Goose**, 1 at Lake Moultrie, Summerton, S. C., Nov. 19, '54 through Dec. 31, R. J. L. as many as 7 for a short stay during the winter at Romain Refuge, McClellanville, S. C., E. S. Jaycocks. **Duck Hawk**, Wilmington, Mar. 23, Clifford Comeau. **Wilson's Snipe**, 1 Mar. 23, 5, Mar. 30, N. Wilkesboro, W. P. S. **Upland Plover**, 1 Greenville, S. C., airport, Mar. 21. **Purple Sandpiper**, 51 counted at Fort Sumter, Charleston harbor, Apr. 7, Rock Comstock. **Great Black-backed Gull**, 1 at Wrightsville Beach, N. C., Feb. 10, Sam Baker. **Mourning Dove**, calling Dec. 19, Greenville, N. C., John Funderburg. **Ground Doves**, 2 pair all winter at feeder on Edisto Island, S. C., Mrs. P. L. Atwood. **Whip-poor-will** calling, 5:15 a.m., Mar. 13, Johns Island (Charleston) S. C., Mr. and Mrs. Ted Metcalf. **Chimney Swift**, several, Chapel Hill, Apr. 6, Norman Chamberlain; Charleston, Apr. 6, E. A. Williams. **Eastern Kingbird**, 1, Sullivan's Island, S. C., Apr. 4, Betty Lemon. **Tree Swallow**, 1, North Wilkesboro, Mar. 1, W.P.S. **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, generally plentiful over the Piedmont section; more than during the 5 preceding years combined, at Elkin, N. C.; E. M. Hodel; 1 at Laurinburg, Jan. 2, E. R. Lyon. **Wood Thrush**, 1 at Johns Island, studied at close range, 10 to 12 feet, Dec. 4, '54, Louise Holbrook, *fide* E. B. Chamberlain. **Parula Warbler**, 1 Wilmington, Mar. 16, Edna Appleberry. Flock of 1000 + **Goldfinches** at Columbia, S. C., Apr. 5, Kay Sisson. **Yellow Palm Warbler**, 1 at N. Wilkesboro, Mar. 27, W.P.S. **Song Sparrow**, individual singing Feb. 21, Charlotte, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood.—All dates 1955 unless otherwise noted.

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The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Supporting	$5.00	Affiliated Club	$2.00

Life—$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)

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The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photograph. — "First look at the world." Baby Bluebirds at nesting box entrance. Wake County, North Carolina. Photo by Jack Dermid, Rt. 5, Raleigh, N. C.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

To those of you who failed to attend the spring field trip at Carolina Beach, I must tell you that you missed a wonderful treat. The slides made by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wood, Mount Kisco, N. Y., of North and South Carolina native flowers and plants were magnificent. I hope you will have another opportunity to see them. This trip was well planned and greatly enjoyed. Many thanks go to the Wilmington Natural Science Club for taking care of arrangements.

A definite time and place will be announced for the fall trip as soon as details are worked out. The hawk migration will probably influence time and place.

There is both encouragement and discouragement in our conservation program. The encouragement comes in the steadily increasing number of feeding stations, bird baths, and other equipment to attract birds, and to keep them coming. It is very important that our schools have conservation programs to teach their pupils something about birds and nature. Few schools have full-time nature leaders to instruct children in the art of camping, and living comfortably in the open. Children like this sort of program. Schools are procuring audio-visual aid equipment and the Wildlife Resources Commissions of both states are furnishing films and some slides gratis. This is fine educational work in so far as it goes.

Against all of this is the fact that because of expansion and progress, lands that were used by birds for nesting are being cleared, forcing wildlife to find places elsewhere. Birds and all wildlife need sheltered, protected and suitable places for breeding, where they can find food, water and safety. Recently some hundreds of acres of land on Long Island were set aside as a refuge and haven for all wildlife. There the birds, ducks, geese, and other native wild animals and plants can find a place for breeding undisturbed. Here is a place where ornithologists and bird enthusiasts can observe wild populations. This was a fine gesture. Can't we encourage similar efforts like this in the Carolinas, so that we could have more places nearby to go for observations? It may be that we can persuade some of our town and city officials to provide such tracts of land for refuges. Bird clubs might help.

We have finally set up an endowment fund with Ellison Williams, 27 Limehouse St., Charleston 21, S. C., as chairman. Some of our funds which had been in a savings account have now been transferred to this new fund since they had been intended from the beginning for an endowment fund. Of course this amount is small, but it is a beginning. We want to build up this fund, so that we might have money for many special projects. Contributions can now be sent in for the Endowment Fund. With our fine membership and growing interest in our work, I am sure every one wants to go forward with our program. I am depending on each of you.

—May W. Puett

WARBLERS OF THE YADKIN RIVER VALLEY

JOHN TROTT

These observations were made over a period of twelve years. The area covered is generally the western end of Stanly County, N. C., centering around New London and extending to the banks of the Yadkin River where the breeding warbler population is most heavily concentrated because of the particularly good habitat found there. Apparently this section is not in a sharply defined migration route but lies between the one through the mountains and the more eastern one which crosses the state in the Chapel Hill—Greensboro area. We rarely get large numbers of migrating warblers. Some of the records came from Morrow Mountain State Park which is also bounded by the Yadkin.

Highway number 49 crosses the Yadkin River just at the northwestern edge of Stanly County. People driving this route are generally familiar with the bridge crossing the Yadkin. On both sides of the bridge, and extending for several miles in either direction, there are large stands of deciduous woods which have not been cut over in many years. The undergrowth next to the water provides attractive cover for many kinds of warblers. Away from the river the trees are large and the woods open. This is an excellent place for migrating warblers in the spring and breeding birds in the summer. An accessible old logging road runs along the east bank for several miles up the river. By walking down this road, which runs under the bridge, one can usually have a satisfying experience in viewing or hearing warblers.

Black and White Warbler: Common breeding bird on wooded hillsides where the undergrowth is not too thick. It usually arrives the last week in March and is not seen after early September. Though I have seen adults feeding fledglings out of the nest on many occasions during the last of May and early June, I have never located a nest. The male seems to curtail his singing activities after nesting has begun.

Prothonotary Warbler: These exquisite warblers are fairly regular along the banks of the Yadkin where stands of Black Willow occur and stumps stand in the water. The arrival is usually mid-April and they can be heard singing throughout early July. I have seen them until the middle of August but never later. A nest in use has never been recorded but I observed a fledgling being fed in June, 1954.

Worm-eating Warbler: This species is a rare migrant and I have only three records: One in September, 1948, and on June 5 and 6, 1954.

Blue-winged Warbler: A male seen on April 30, 1955 is my only record.

Parula Warbler: Arriving in late March and staying through until the middle of September, this warbler is obviously breeding in the area. The absence of both Spanish Moss and Usnea locally, makes one wonder what nesting material is used. It is fairly abundant along the river banks.

Magnolia Warbler: Only one record for this species; May 6, 1954.

Myrtle Warbler: A common, but somewhat erratic, winter resident. Myrtles usually arrive in mid-October and stay through the first week in May. An increase in numbers has been noted during late February and most have left by the last of April.

Cape May Warbler: This is a fairly regular spring migrant. Though large numbers have been seen from mid-April to early May, there are no fall records. (Only two were seen in 1955.)

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Arrives about the middle of April and is seen regularly until the first of May. I have no fall records.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Arrives the last of March and is heard frequently through early May. A few remain to breed as they have been heard along the Yadkin during May and June for six years. Adults feeding fledglings out of the nest were observed at Morrow Mountain on May 24, and along the Yadkin on June 10, 1954. No nests have been located. Large pines, which the birds seem to prefer when Hemlocks are absent, occur

in both areas. These warblers can generally be found feeding and singing in the pines on the top of Morrow Mountain during April, May and June. There are no fall records.

Cerulean Warbler: A record of two males only in late July, 1945, would indicate that the Cerulean is a transient and passes through on the trip south.

Blackburnian Warbler: The only record is one male seen on May 5, 1945.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Usually the first of the warblers to return in the spring. They arrive late in March and stay to nest where there are large stands of pine. Young out of the nest have been observed on many occasions. Nesting activities seem to cease after the first week of June.

Yellow Warbler: A common spring migrant that arrives about the middle of April. Though it breeds in bordering counties, I have never observed it after the first week of May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Up until Spring, 1955, I had not encountered this bird in this section. But a male was seen on April 9 and repeatedly afterwards until May 1.

Black-poll Warbler: This species, that announces the end of the migration, begins to appear in this section about May 2, and is seen regularly through May 10 and 11. A few fall observations have been made in early October.

Pine Warbler: This is the only resident Warbler. It is common in pine forests throughout the year but seemingly less common during the winter months.

Prairie Warbler: When forests are cut over or fields allowed to grow up with scrub growth, this warbler moves in. It has become increasingly common in the last ten years until now it is one of the commonest warblers in the section. It arrives in mid-April and is heard through August. Nests have been found on numerous occasions and it seems to prefer Cork Elm and Sweet Gum saplings. Nesting activities extend through early July.

Oven-bird: Though there are constant occurrences of this species in April and September, it apparently does not nest here. None has been observed or heard between these months. It does nest in bordering areas (E.g., Charlotte). The preferred habitat type is abundant here in the Yadkin area.

Northern Water-Thrush: Only two records for this species. One on May 20, 1954 and again on April 30, 1955.

Louisiana Water-Thrush: This ground-warbler is a regular breeder where large creeks in deep deciduous woods occur. Two nests have been located, one with young on May 6, 1954 and one with eggs on May 28, 1955. Both were at the same place, in a creek bank emptying into the Yadkin. The Louisiana arrives the last of March and has not been observed after July.

Kentucky Warbler: This is a common breeding bird where the habitat is suitable. Arriving in late April, it may be heard singing during the remainder of that month and through June under the bridge at the Yadkin. It seems to prefer large deciduous woods where the undergrowth is regular but not too thick. Three nests have been found and all were located within the same general area.

Yellow-Throat: This is also a common breeding bird, in grassy, open places. Four nests have been observed and there are some indications that there may be second broods. Males are usually heard singing in early April and the species has been seen through mid-October.

Yellow-breasted Chat: A common breeder, in dry, brush areas where there are predominately Blackberry vines. The Chats arrive in late April and have not been encountered after early July.

Hooded Warbler: This is by far the most common breeding warbler along the banks of the Yadkin. About five nests are found each year. The Hooded seems to prefer damp places in deciduous woods where the undergrowth is thick. The Hoodeds arrive during mid-April and the males can be heard through early July.

Palm Warbler: Only two records for this warbler, one October 20, 1954, and early April, 1955.

(Continued on page 57)

THE CATTLE EGRET COMES TO SOUTH CAROLINA

Ellison A. Williams

Africa is thought to have been the original home of the Cattle Egret, but because of its urge to wander and extend its territory it can now be found on all the continents.

Irston R. Barnes in the May-August issue of the *Atlantic Naturalist* gives an interesting account of this egret and of its arrival in the Western Hemisphere. It was first discovered in South America in British Guiana in 1937 and is now believed to have arrived there several years earlier and under its own power flying over the ocean. For the next 15 years it was extending its range to Florida and northward without any notice, then suddenly it was recorded in widely separated places.

One Cattle Egret appeared near Wayland, Mass., April 23, 1952, and was collected. It proved to be *Bubulcus ibis ibis*, the Mediterranean-African race of the Cattle Egret. Soon another was seen in New Jersey and on June 1, 1952, ten were seen at Lake Okeechobee, Fla., and a picture taken in Florida in March of that year and later developed, showed Cattle Egrets which had been overlooked. In October 1952, one was collected by a trawler off the Newfoundland Grand Banks, 300 miles from land, and another was seen near Chicago, Ill. In April 1953 a Cattle Egret was seen in Maryland and in May, two were reported in Virginia. In November one was recorded in Bermuda and one in Maine. More records came out of Virginia and New Jersey in the summer of 1953.

In May 1953 the first nest of this egret in the United States was found at Lake Okeechobee, Fla. by Samuel A. Grimes, who now reports rookeries containing 750 nests there. The bird apparently is well established in Florida. Grimes estimates that there are now between 3500 and 4000 Cattle Egrets in Florida and Louis A. Stinson banded 59 this summer, the first Cattle Egrets banded in the United States. It is now thought that Cattle Egrets may have reached Florida around the year 1941.

The first record of the Cattle Egret in South Carolina was made by Major Peter Gething of Charleston and James F. Cooper of Kingstree, who on August 8, 1954, found one bird at Litchfield Plantation on the Waccamaw River about 15 miles north of Georgetown. They watched this individual for about half an hour. [*Chat* 18 (4) : p. 102.] On April 5, 1955, Mr. Hugh Morrison of McClellanville, S. C. watched a Cattle Egret as it followed a group of half-grown pigs. It appeared to pick the backs of the pigs as it followed them about. The fact that the bird's head just reached over the backs of the pigs gave him a chance to estimate its height at about 20 inches. He had read about the Cattle Egret and noticed particularly its yellow bill, and watched it for about three hours until it flew away and did not return. On April 17, 1955, Mr. Henry P. Staats of Charleston observed one Cattle Egret near Exchange Plantation not many miles from the spot where Messrs. Gething and Cooper had seen one bird the previous August. Mr. Staats spent several weeks in Africa

Cattle Egret by Edward J. Bierly. Reproduced by permission of the artist and Shirley A. Briggs, Editor, *The Atlantic Naturalist*.

BIERLY

last Summer taking pictures of wildlife there and has seen hundreds of Cattle Egrets in their natural habitat.

May 10 being Memorial Day in South Carolina, the writer has for years taken the day for a field trip. This year with Arthur Wilcox of Charleston he planned to visit the Santee River territory to look for Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites, Black-necked Stilts and Glossy Ibises, and if time permitted to try and find the Cattle Egret that had been seen above Georgetown. Leaving at 5:30 A.M. we had not gone more than 8 miles when we came to a herd of cattle at Snee Farm close by the road. We saw that there were several egrets with the cattle and immediately spotted one Cattle Egret not 50 yards from the car, which was easily compared with the half-dozen Snowy Egrets feeding with the cattle. Our joy at being so close to a Cattle Egret was of short duration for the cattle decided at that moment to stampede. The egret flew up and settled down about 200 yards away, forcing us to bring our 48 diam. telescope into action and we were then able to study this individual at our leisure.

I had checked many herds of cattle in Georgia and South Carolina in the past 12 months and had seen scores of Snowy Egrets and some Little Blue Herons in pastures with cattle, but had not seen a single Cattle Egret before in either one of these states. Alex Sprunt, Jr., had shown me my first Cattle Egret in March 1954 while on one of the Audubon Tours at Lake Okeechobee, Fla., and I had seen others on the two following days while there, and had taken some pictures of them. The yellow bill and legs, which in spring seemed to me to be orange-yellow; the buff or brownish wash on the breast, top of the head and back of the neck, can easily be seen; besides the bird is a bit chunkier and the bill heavier than that of the Snowy.

Mr. Edward Von S. Dingle, well known ornithologist and bird painter of this section, reports that he saw a Cattle Egret with the Boone Hall cattle on June 10, 1955, and again the same month. This herd is less than a mile from the one at Snee Farm and this could have been the same bird seen by the writer and Wilcox. Dingle notes that "in walking the bird goes in a different way from other herons. It 'hunches' its way like a Black Vulture."

Four other Charleston bird-watchers have recently seen a Cattle Egret in the same general locality. Mr. and Mrs. Rock Comstock, Jr., saw one on May 31, and Miss Betty Lemon one on June 5, 1955. Mrs. Comstock reports that she noted the thick bill, "which we thought to be the color of the Royal Tern's — very bright orange. We saw the toast-brown color on its head, breast, and back, and we noted that this egret had an unusual gait, very much like a goose." Mrs. Comstock and Mrs. Louise Barrington saw one Cattle Egret on June 16, and Mrs. Comstock did not think the bill was as bright as it was two weeks earlier.

On July 13, 1955, Frank Weston, John Henry Dick, Alex Sprunt, Jr., and the writer saw five Cattle Egrets. Three were together at Boone Hall Plantation, which is near Charleston, and two were in an area near the Santee River about 40 miles from Charleston. Both locations are in Charleston County. [Frank (Francis M.) Weston is an ex-Charlestonian who has lived at Pensacola, Fla., for the past 30 or more years. Several CBC members got their start in ornithology from Mr. Weston.—*Editor.*]

The Cattle Egret prefers a warm climate when breeding and nests in Spain and Southern France in Europe, besides Africa, and so far only in Florida in the United States; it has also increased in South America. There is no doubt that it will extend its range to Texas and up the Atlantic coast. Even before this article appears in print, there should be more reports of this egret along the coast, especially as immature Cattle Egrets appear to wander northward during the summer months. North Carolina observers should soon be able to find these interesting egrets that prefer to eat insects rather than fish.—*Charleston, S. C., July 14, 1955.*

[On August 6, 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edwards, Arthur Doyle and Kay Sisson saw four Cattle Egrets feeding close to a small herd of cattle on a dried up rice marsh near McClellanville, S. C. According to a recent communication from Alex Sprunt, Jr. be sure to examine carefully any whitish-looking egrets associating with cattle.—*Editor*]

————CBC————

EDITORIAL—

As acting editor of this issue we wish to acknowledge the splendid work done by the "regular", Kay Sisson. Like most editors, she wants and ought to have on hand more manuscripts, photographs and other illustrations material—a far greater quantity than this acting editor found. Then, too the editor and associates are always anxious to be advised constructively and in a friendly way. *Douglas E. Wade, Acting Editor.*

Announcement—

FALL MEETING is to be held at Fontana Village, N. C., the week-end of September 30 and October 1 and 2; fuller details to appear in the CBC *Newsletter*. If you have proposed paper or pictures for program write immediately to Linville Hendren, Elkin, N. C.—Editor.

"No one can understand nature fully nor miss it wholly; but as each contributes his part there arises a structure that has a certain grandeur." *Aristotle*

(Continued from page 53)

Canada Warbler: There is only one record for this species. A singing male was seen April 27, 1945, near Pfeiffer College.

Redstart: This is a regular breeder on the banks of the Yadkin where it lives with the Hooded as the most common warbler. Redstarts seem to prefer medium-sized sapling growth for feeding and nesting. Singing males begin to arrive in mid-April and are seen through October. A number of immature males have been noted among the breeding birds which might suggest that this section is the southern extreme of the breeding range. —*New London, N. C.*

THE 1955 SPRING COUNT

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

This Spring Count consists of seven reports. There were but five last spring. Several of these 1955 counts lack complete data but are of sufficient interest to publish. Although the field work took place at the end of April, pressure of other interests held the reports up; two of them reaching us too late for any analysis. Canada Geese and Dickcissels were most unusual. Greensboro returned 122 species (120 in '54), and Wilmington reported 156 (164 in '54). The unusually high wind was believed to be responsible for the lower count, in part, at least. In spite of generally retarded migration, populations were reasonably normal excepting for a few species.

Badin, N. C. Area 15 miles in diam. centering just southeast of Badin, including High Rock Dam and Morrow Mountain, Apr. 30, '55. 5:00 a.m., to 7:15 p.m., Fair to partly overcast. Temp. 40° to 75°. Eleven observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 42; total party miles, 160 (20 on foot, 140 by car).

Green Heron, 1; Am. Bittern, 1; Wood Duck, 2; Turkey Vulture, 12; Black Vulture, 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Osprey, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 5; Wild Turkey, 2; Killdeer, 18; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1; Ring-billed Gull 2; Mourning Dove, 23; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Whip-poor-will, 1; Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 73; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 8; Great-crested Flycatcher, 2; Eastern Phoebe, 11; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Least Flycatcher, 1; Eastern Wood Pewee, 2; Horned Lark, 1; Tree Swallow, 3; Rough-winged Swallow, 9; Barn Swallow, 33; Purple Martin, 79; Blue Jay, 23; Am. Crow, 13; Carolina Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 16; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 18; Mockingbird, 59; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 22; Am. Robin 33; Wood Thrush, 31; Olive-backed Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 32; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 20 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 10; Loggerhead Shrike, 12; Starling, 100+; White-eyed Vireo, 7; Yellow-throated Vireo, 12; Red-eyed Vireo, 50; Black and White Warbler, 13; Prothonotary Warbler, 3; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 8; Yellow Warbler, 5; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 2: Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 6; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 9; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4; Pine Warbler, 8; Prairie Warbler, 43; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 1; Northern Water-Thrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 5; Yellow-throat, 16; Yellow-breasted Chat, 18; Hooded Warbler, 6; Am. Redstart, 4; House Sparrow, 150+; Bobolink, 22; Common Meadowlark, 22; Red-winged Blackbird, 36; Orchard Oriole, 13; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Purple Grackle, 10; Common Cowbird, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Summer Tanager, 26; Cardinal, 53; Blue Grosbeak, 11; Indigo Bunting, 21; Am. Goldfinch, 73; Eastern Towhee, 12; Grasshopper Sparrow, 10; Bachman's Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 35; Field Sparrow, 32; White-throated Sparrow, 79; Song Sparrow, 1.

Total species 112; total individuals, appx. 1696. (Seen in the area Apr. 29, White-crowned Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow. Seen Apr. 23, by Mrs. Price, Rose-breasted Grosbeak).

Participants, Robert Bassinger, P. E. Book, Mrs. Barrett Crook, Susan Green, M. M. Haithcock, Barbara Hatley, Gail Mahathey, Douglas Miller, Dwight Morgan, Mrs. L. A. Price, Buck Smith, Wayne Smith, Anne Whitlock, and John Trott (compiler).

Greensboro, N. C. (Area 15 mi. dia. centering ½ mi., SW WBIG transmitter. Approx. same area covered 1954; deciduous and pine woods, 25%; thickets, 15%; lakes and ponds, 25%; fields, 15%; marsh and wooded swamps, 10%; lawns and parks, 10%), Apr. 30, '55. 1:30 a.m., to 7:30 p.m.; partly cloudy; temp. 58° to 78°; wind northerly, 5 - 15 mph. Twenty-nine observers in 12 parties; total party hours 99 (22 by car, 76 on foot, 1 in boat); total party miles, 248 (202 by car, 45 on foot, 1 in boat).

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 4; Canada Goose, 4; Wood Duck, 3; Ring-necked Duck, 3; Scaup, 15; Turkey Vulture, 28; Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 7; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Osprey,2; Sparrow Hawk, 5; Bob-white, 32; Killdeer, 11; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 15; Eastern Dowitcher, 1; Mourning Dove 85; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 2; Whip-poor-will, 86; Nighthawk, 8; Chimney Swift, 99; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 10; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 34; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 16; Red-headed Woodpecker, 24; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpcker, 13; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Eastern King-

bird, 25; Great-crested Flycatcher, 39; Eastern Phoebe, 40; Acadian Flycatcher, 7; Wood Pewee, 23; Horned Lark, 4; Tree Swallow, 5; Rough-winged Swallow, 34; Barn Swallow, 3; Purple Martin, 57; Blue Jay, 128; Am. Crow, 84; Carolina Chickadee, 96. Tufted Titmouse, 90; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; House Wren, 29; Carolina Wren, 75; Mockingbird, 143; Catbird, 38; Brown Thrasher, 49; Am. Robin, 205; Wood Thrush, 170; Hermit Thrush, 1; Olive-backed Thrush, 6; Wilson's Thrush, 1; Common Bluebird, 103; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 75; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 88; Loggerhead Shrike, 12; Starling, 387; White-eyed Vireo, 20; Yellow-throated Vireo, 26; Solitary Vireo, 7; Red-eyed Vireo, 93; Black and White Warbler, 13; Prothonotary Warbler, 1; Worm-eating Warbler, 3; Parula Warbler, 15; Yellow Warbler, 28; Cape May Warbler, 11; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 15; Myrtle Warbler, 418; Black-throated Green Warbler, 3; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 24; Chestnut-sized Warbler, 2; Bay-breasted Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 52; Prairie Warbler 45; Ovenbird, 50; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 17; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Yellow-throat, 42; Yellow-breasted Chat, 46; Hooded Warbler, 50; Am. Redstart, 63; House Sparrow, 409; Bobolink, 25; Common Meadowlark, 73, Red-winged Blackbird, 210; Orchard Oriole, 5; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Purple Grackle, 30; Common Cowbird, 4; Scarlet Tanager, 29; Summer Tanager, 32; Cardinal, 197; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 5; Blue Grosbeak, 4; Indigo Bunting, 11; Dickcissel, 2; Pine Siskin, 251; Am. Goldfinch, 932; Eastern Towhee, 167; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Grasshopper Sparrow, 15; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 183; Field Sparrow, 86; White-throated Sparrow, 332; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 54.

Total Species, 122. Approx. individuals, 6735.—John Carr, Mrs. W. C. Carr, Inez Coldwell, Evelyn Cole, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Craft, William H. Craft, Larry A. Crawford, Jr., Dr. Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. W. S. Holmes, S. Anne Locke, Mrs. Robt. E. McCoy, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar H. Paris, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George W. Perrett, Fred Phillips, Mrs. Edith L. Settan Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, George A. Smith, William F. Smyre, Hal H. Strickland, Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Max Thompson, Ethel L. Troy, Mrs. R. H. Weisner, and Thomas E. Street (Compiler). The Piedmont Bird Club.

Greenville, S. C. (Area centered at Union Bleachery. Pine and deciduous woods 40%, "edge areas" 55%, ponds and residential 5%), Apr. 30, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., clear, light wind; warm. Eight observers in two parties.

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Green Heron, 1; Mallard, 2; Black Duck, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Turkey Vulture, 4; Black Vulture, 7; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 2; Osprey, 1; Bob-white, 6; Killdeer, 20; Spotted Sandpiper, 8; Solitary Sandpiper, 10; Least Sandpiper, 1; Lesser Yellow-legs, 3; Mourning Dove, 25+; Whip-poor-will, 1; Chimney Swift, 50+; Belted Kingfisher. 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 12; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Great-crested Flycatcher, 5; Eastern Phoebe, 15; Wood Pewee, 1; Horned Lark, 2; Tree Swallow, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 10; Blue Jay, 50; Am. Crow, 10+; Carolina Chickadee, 10+; Tufted Titmouse, 15+; House Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 15; Mockingbird, 10; Catbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 5; Am. Robin, 30+; Wood Thrush, 4; Common Bluebird, 15+; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 5; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 30+; Starling, 100+; White-eyed Vireo, 3; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 10; Black and White Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 1; Yellow Warbler, 2; Cape May Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 20+; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Black-poll, 1; Pine Warbler, 1; Prairie Warbler, 10; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 10; Yellow-breasted Chat, 10+; Hooded Warbler, 2; Am. Redstart, 3; House Sparrow, 50+; Common Meadowlark, 15+; Red-winged Blackbird, 50+; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Purple Grackle, 20+; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 5; Cardinal, 20+; Blue Grosbeak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 10+; Am. Goldfinch, 100; Eastern Towhee, 2; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 75+; White-throated Sparrow, 75+; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 10+.

Total, 86 species; about 800 individuals. Dr. T. E. Coleman, Jimmy Cureton, Ruth Gilreath, Gladys Hart, Rosa Lee Hart, May Puett, Martha Shuler, and J. B. (Jay) Shuler, (Compiler). Greenville Bird Club.

Henderson, N. C. (Area same as in Christmas counts, including Lake Lucy, Ruin Creek, and Satterwhite's Point), Apr. 30. 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tem. 47° - 77°; fair light NNE wind. Five observers.

Pied-billed Grebe; Blue-winged Teal; Scaup; Shoveler: Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk; Bob-white; Coot; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Bonaparte's Gull; Mourning Dove; Chimney Swift; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Yellow-shafted Flicker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Red-headed Woodpecker; Hairy Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Kingbird; Great-crested Flycatcher; Eastern Phoebe; Rough-

winged Swallow; Blue Jay; Am. Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Brown-headed Nuthatch; House Wren; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Am. Robin; Wood Thrush; Common Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; White-eyed Vireo; Yellow-throated Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo; Black and White Warbler; Golden-winged Warbler; Parula Warbler; Yellow Warbler; Black-throated Blue Warbler; Myrtle Warbler; Yellow-throated Warbler; Pine Warbler; Prairie Warbler; Ovenbird; Louisiana Water-Thrush; Kentucky Warbler; Yellow-throat; Yellow-breasted Chat; Hooded Warbler; Canada Warbler; Am. Redstart; House Sparrow; Common Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Orchard Oriole; Purple Grackle; Scarlet Tanager; Summer Tanager; Cardinal; Indigo Bunting; Evening Grosbeak; Am. Goldfinch; Eastern Towhee; Chipping Sparrow; Field Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow.

Total, 76 species; individuals not given. (Seen in area, Apr. 27 Blue-winged Warblers; May 1, Acadian Flycatcher; May 7, Magnolia and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Blue Grosbeak.) Mesdames: Gary Myers, Brown, McLaurin (Washington, N. C.) and Bachman (Mrs. A. W.) (compiler). Henderson Bird Club.

Lenoir, N. C. (Area same as in Christmas counts - part of city; brick yard; creek bottom to the SW), May 7, Fair, warm, light wind. Ten observers in 3 parties. 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Canada Goose, 4 (Fred May, *et al*); Blue-winged Teal; Green Heron; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Broad-winged Hawk; Bob-white; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Solitary Sandpiper; Mourning Dove; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Whip-poor-will; Nighthawk; Chimney Swift; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Yellow-shafted Flicker; Pileated Woodpecker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Kingbird; Great-crested Flycatcher; Eastern Phoebe; Acadian Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Horned Lark; Tree Swallow; Rough-winged Swallow; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Am. Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; House Wren; Carolina Wren; Sedge Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Am. Robin; Wood Thrush; Olive-backed Thrush; Common Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; White-eyed Vireo; Yellow-throated Vireo; Solitary Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo; Black and White Warbler; Parula Warbler; Yellow Warbler; Cape May Warbler; Myrtle Warbler; Yellow-throated Warbler; Chestnut-sided Warbler; Pine Warbler; Prairie Warbler; Oven-bird; Yellow-throat; Yellow-breasted Chat; Hooded Warbler; Canada Warbler; Am. Redstart; House Sparrow; Bobolink; Eastern Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Orchard Oriole; Purple Grackle; Common Cowbird; Scarlet Tanager; Summer Tanager; Cardinal; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; Evening Grosbeak; Pine Siskin; Am. Goldfinch; Eastern Towhee; Grasshopper Sparrow; Chipping Sparrow; Field Sparrow; White-crowned Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

Total, 93 species; no individual count. Miss Margaret Harper, Mrs. C. S. Warren, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Williams, Mrs. Fred May, Dr. James Taylor, Mrs. J. B. Bernard, Tom Parks, J. T. Ingram, and Fred May (compiler). Lenoir Bird Club.

Winston-Salem, N. C. (area same as in Christmas counts), Apr. 30, 5 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Fair, temp. 55° - 77°; wind 0 - 20 mph. N & NE; 12 observers; parties and coverage not given.

Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 3; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Turkey Vulture, 7; Black Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 12; Killdeer, 9; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Solitary Sandpiper, 3; Lesser Yellow-legs, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 130; Whip-poor-will, 4; Chimney Swift, 200; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 18; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 6; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Kingbird, 14; Great-crested Flycatcher, 7; Eastern Phoebe, 25; Acadian Flycatcher, 12; Wood Pewee, 9; Horned Lark, 2; Tree Swallow, 5; Rough-winged Swallow, 43; Barn Swallow, 2; Purple Martin, 10; Blue Jay, 57; Am. Crow, 49; Carolina Chickadee, 22; Tufted Titmouse, 19; White-breasted Nuthatch, 18; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; House Wren, 17; Carolina Wren, 32; Mockingbird, 52; Catbird, 76; Brown Thrasher, 25; Am. Robin, 500; Wood Thrush, 66; Olive-backed Thrush, 1; Common Bluebird, 85; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 18; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 88; Loggerhead Shrike, 3; Starling, 1500; White-eyed Vireo, 11; Yellow-throated Vireo, 11; Solitary Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 55; Black and White Warbler, 7; Worm-eating Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 3; Yellow Warbler, 9; Cape May Warbler, 7; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 5; Myrtle Warbler, 52; Black-throated Green Warbler, 5;

Yellow-throated Warbler, 25; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4; Pine Warbler, 7; Prairie Warbler, 20; Oven-bird, 25; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 2; Yellow-throat, 30; Yellow-breasted Chat, 32; Hooded Warbler, 7; Canada Warbler, 2; Am. Redstart, 80; House Sparrow, 150; Eastern Meadowlark, 49; Red-winged Blackbird, 115; Orchard Oriole, 6; Rusty Blackbird, 10; Purple Grackle, 22; Common Cowbird, 8; Scarlet Tanager, 2; Summer Tanager, 9; Cardinal, 108; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4; Blue Grosbeak, 18; Indigo Bunting, 17; Purple Fineh, 2; Pine Siskin, 75; Am. Goldfinch, 125; Eastern Towhee, 42; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Grasshopper Sparrow, 23; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 67; Field Sparrow, 80; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 80; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 11.

Total, species 106; about 4725 individuals. Mrs. W. R. Budlong, Barbara (Mrs. Ed.) Kissam, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. McLean, Charles M. Frost, Doris (Mrs. T. W.) Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Spencer, James L. Stephenson, and Compilers: Dr T. W. Simpson and R. W. Witherington. Winston-Salem Bird Club.

Wilmington, N. C. (same area as in Christmas counts) Apr. 23; temp. 62° - 85°; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; very high wind, 30 - 40 mph. Twenty-three observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 104 (41 on foot, 63 by car), total party miles 290 (45 on foot, 245 by car).

Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Brown Pelican, 8; **Gannet**, 3, (Comeau & S. Baker); Double-crested Cormorant, 104; Anhinga, 5; Magnificent Frigate-bird, 1, (Appleberry, C. M. Allen); Great Blue Heron, 16; Common Egret, 42; Snowy Egret, 53; Tricolored Heron 6; Little Blue Heron, 11; Green Heron, 11; Black-crowned Night Heron, 7; Am. Bittern, 1; Black Duck, 2; **Am. Widgeon**, 1; Wood Duck, 2; Greater Scaup, 2, (S. Baker); Lesser Scaup, 3; Bufflehead, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 2; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Osprey, 31; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 18; Turkey, 1 (L. G. Sprunt); King Rail, 1; Clapper Rail, 5; Florida Gallinule, 1; Coot, 11; Oyster-catcher, 15; Piping Plover, 4, (Comeau); Ringed Plover, 8; Thick-billed Plover, 1; Killdeer, 6; Black-bellied Plover, 81; Ruddy Turnstone, 2; **Am. Woodcock**, 1, (Comeau); Hudsonian Curlew, 11; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Willet, 28; Greater Yellow-legs, 21; Lesser Yellow-legs, 7; Knot, 6, (Comeau); Dunlin, 2000 *est*; Dowitcher, 14; Sanderling, 5; Herring Gull, 206; Ring-billed Gull, 275; Laughing Gull, 38; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Forster's Tern, 2; Common Tern, 3; Least Tern, 238; Royal Tern, 74; Caspian Tern, 2; Black Tern, 4, (Mebane); Black Skimmer, 752; Mourning Dove, 60; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 3; Chuck-wills-widow, 7; Nighthawk, 1; Chimney Swift, 27; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 7; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 29; Pileated Woodpeeker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpeeker, 24; Red-headed Woodpecker, 14; Hairy Woodpeeker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Red-cockaded Woodpeeker, 4; Eastern Kingbird, 32; Great-crested Flycatcher, 46; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Wood Pewee, 15; Tree Swallow, 123; Rough-winged Swallow, 10; Barn Swallow, 188; Purple Martin, 132; Blue Jay 156; Am. Crow, 103; Fish Crow, 29; Carolina Chickadee, 40; Tufted Titmouse, 52; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 28; House Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 54; Marsh Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 98; Catbird, 35; Brown Thrasher, 68; Am Robin, 6; Wood Thrush, 20; Common Bluebird, 26; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 43; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 67; Loggerhead Shrike, 9; Starling, 47; White-eyed Vireo, 41; Yellow-throated Vireo, 16; Red-eyed Vireo, 35; **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1, (C. M. Allen); Black and White Warbler, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 27; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1, (Mebane); Parula Warbler, 109; Yellow Warbler, 1, (Bill James); Myrtle Warbler, 208; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Yellow-throated Warbler, 70; Pine Warbler, 34; Prairie Warbler, 60; Palm Warbler, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 27; Yellow-breasted Chat, 12; Hooded Warbler, 11; House Sparrow, 145; Common Meadowlark, 49; Red-winged Blackbird, 381; Orchard Oriole, 42; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Boat-tailed Grackle, 95; Purple Grackle, 70; Common Cowbird, 50; Summer Tanager, 44; Cardinal, 101; Blue Grosbeak, 4; Indigo Bunting, 6; Painted Bunting, 15; Am. Goldfinch, 30; Eastern Towhee, 104; **Ipswich Sparrow**, 1, (Bill James); Savannah Sparrow, 17; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Bachman's Sparrow, 12; Chipping Sparrow, 30; Field Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 110; Swamp Sparrow, 6.

Total, 154 species; individuals about 7,950. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Allen (Washington, D. C.), Cecil Appleberry, Mary Baker, Sam Baker, Barney Barnhill, Clifford Comeau, Lt. Carl Dunkel, Marie Glisson, Walter Grist, Lt. Bill James, Harry Latimer, Jr., Ruth Leman, Polly Mebane, Maj. Van Reid, Peggy Rose, Nancy Rose, Marie Vander Schalie, Laurence Gray Sprunt, June Sprunt, James Sprunt, Jr., Mary Urich, and Edna Appleberry (compiler). The Wilmington Natural Science Club.

HOW TO BLOCK COUNT WATERFOWL

Harold M. Steele

Game Management Agent, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Each year after the waterfowl hunting season closes down in the United States, a count of the waterfowl left on the continent and coastal waters is made. Usually this census is conducted in early January over one week. A sizeable army of observers—federal agents, state wildlife workers, hunters, ornithologists—work over the waterfowl concentration areas by foot, boat, canoe and by air. Tabulations of the counts, especially by major flyways, give the Federal Government methods for predicting the number of birds that will return again to nesting grounds. Such information is a part of an international plan directed at more intelligent management of this valuable natural resource of ducks, geese, brant and swans.

Volunteer observers are of invaluable assistance in this difficult work. Many small water areas in the immediate vicinity of interested persons may be overlooked in the great overall picture because of lack of trained observers.

The most often heard reason for individuals not participating is, "I just don't know how to count a large flock of ducks. By the time I get started they are gone."

I shall describe briefly the method that most trained observers use to *flock count* waterfowl. Well-trained observers have consistently come close to complete accuracy in estimating waterfowl flocks in the field as compared to later checks with aerial photos.

We who have, for many years, been actively engaged in census work, use what is known as the **block count** method. For the beginner it is suggested that the thumb and forefinger be held up at arms length forming a U. It is like looking through a rifle sight. Count the number of birds within this finger-thumb sight area. There may be five, or ten, or multiples of five or ten waterfowl seen. Quickly note the number of fives or tens (or hundreds, in the case of large flocks) that pass through or are viewed by this "sight." You will be surprised how soon you will automatically look at a segment of a flock and accurately estimate the number of birds therein, and the number of segments within the flock. Your eyes will soon become accustomed to picking out these blocks or segments without the use of the hands at all.

If you have become proficient in recognizing the various species of waterfowl that you observe, then your work becomes more important.

We, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are constantly striving to improve our methods of coverage of waterfowl counts in the United States. It is hoped that in the near future Carolina Bird Club members will become an important working part of this great undertaking. Surely out of a large number of bird observers—gotten into the field by the CBC program—there will evolve a substantial hard-core of very proficient observers willing and able to help in this annual count of waterfowl.—*Columbia, S. C., July 17, 1955*

"Blackheads" — so they look from a distance, at rest or in flight. You're looking up at them; they're moving fast. From a plane, you'd see their top-side pattern. To test your skill at rapid estimation of numbers in a flock, take fifteen seconds (lenient amount). Block count! How many? These **Ring-necked Ducks** were "shot" legally by **Jack Dermid** on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. He got a permanent trophy.

BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

Polly Mebane of Wilmington, N. C. writes that, "Watching birds in a small feeding area can be a lot of fun and a considerable source of information." At the annual meeting at Winston-Salem, this spring, she reported at length on some of her experiences. From her report, "My first feeder was a family project and was primarily intended to help amuse an active five year old boy who needed diversion when the weather would not permit outdoor play. He dutifully replenished the feeder and kept the small pan of water filled. He paid close attention to the birds and soon knew the Blue Jay, Mockingbird, Cardinal and English Sparrow. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was his pet bird. This youngster, after ten years, is still interested in birds. . . .

We tried a window feeder but had to remove it, because a Cardinal and a Mockingbird insisted on fighting their reflections in the window with such vigor that we felt their lives were endangered. . . .

Suet, if rendered, seasoned with one-half teaspoon of salt to about a pound of fat, and then mixed with raw grits, cracked corn and uncooked oatmeal will be eaten right away. This suet mixture is adaptable for filling large pine cones. Cones hung by a single wire on a flexible string will not be touched by English Sparrows or Starlings. . . .

A real advantage of a small area for observation is the possibility of comparing size, form, color and some habits, as well as time of feeding and population changes. . . .

It has been my good fortune and pleasure to identify over ninety species in our yard, with a few included that flew overhead, such as Night Hawks, Chimney Swifts, Vultures and gulls."

M. L. McCrae wrote this gem that appeared in full in *the lesser SQAWK* which is published by the Natural History Society of Charleston, S. C. It is one aspect of "backyard birding" that might lead to CBC members going barefooted while prowling around the back country (low country or mountains).

". . . . A cabin stood about a quarter-mile down road with a thin blue ribbon of oakwood smoke rising to freedom from its dark interior and flirting with the zephyrs lazing above the creek at its front. As we stood by the station wagon discussing the birds we had seen, there came the loud bang of a solid board shutter. A woman thrust her head from the window and shouted, 'Boy, go git dat cow!'

"Just then I heard the whinney of a Screech Owl in the dark woods to my left, announced it and was subjected to some good-natured ribbing from my fellows who said that I was either dreaming or 'pulling their legs.' It was then about 8 o'clock and full daylight.

"As we started to get back in the station wagon the woman shouted once more, 'You hear me, boy? Go git dat cow! We all stopped to listen. The Screech Owl called again: louder this time and distinctly heard by all. So, in the annual bird census report of the National Audubon Society one of the species included by us was the Screech Owl.

"Upon further thought and with less enthusiasm for additional species to swell our record, it is believed the owl should be eliminated. By viewing the incident in its locale —the gem in its settng— I have concluded that there was no cow for 'Boy' to go get, nor was there any Screech Owl; rather, a lookout giving the warning signal to the operator of a moonshine whiskey still, and his answering, 'Roger.'"

Each spring, I plan to secure the necessary blanks from the National Audubon Society and make a survey of the breeding birds in my own backyard. Then I wait until it is too late to get in sufficient number of observations to meet the requirements. For, in order to make an accepted report, you actually must SEE the nest with the parents feeding the young birds within that area. The baby birds I see with their parents on our feeding trays are not acceptable as records for this nationally-conducted breeding bird survey. With so many more people becoming interested in bird feeding and bird watching, the standards of acceptable records have had to be raised. However, it is not easy to tell anyone that he or she is wrong about the identification of a bird. . . . I believe, from the many birds that I know nest in or near our own backyard, that I could, if I took the time, get up quite a good survey.—*Dept. Editor.*

Has your club ever tried selling engagement calendars? This is a neat way to raise funds for worthwhile projects. An attractive and useful engagement calendar book, replete with 55 reproductions (black and white) of Audubon's Birds of America and a full colored Audubon cover, can be obtained from the Grant Hill Publishing Company, 14 Grant Hill Road, Bloomfield, Conn. Write Mrs. Marjorie P. Gray of this company for fuller details about special club discounts; single copies retail for $1.25. Its really not too long before Christmas.

From an inspection of trees and shrubs in your own backyard, you can gain some idea of whether or not certain foods, generally available to wild creatures, will be scarce this fall and winter. From some quarters, there are indications that the late spring freeze caught many mast-producers —the pines and nut trees and shrubs, particularly. This "Department" would be glad to receive your reports on native food plants, especially those affected seriously by the Spring 1955, freeze. A widespread scarcity of "mast" this winter could be a serious thing for much wildlife.—*Dept Editor.*

Maybe a bit afield of the backyard, but we are delighted to pass on the word that the Dominick House on Bull's Island (Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge) is probably in operation. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dawn, now in charge of the Dominick House, can be reached by telephone via McClellanville, S. C.

—CBC—

Correction: The last five lines of the caption under the Purple Sandpiper illustration (June, 1955, THE CHAT, page 39) should have read as follows: "The end of this groin dips into the sea, and at that point, along the top or at its base on the beach, these birds feed, barely beyond reach of the breakers. Tomkins, longtime contributor to the *Auk* and other journals, was the first to find Purple Sandpipers wintering in Georgia. That was during the winter of 1949 and 1950."

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Our Land is Our Life. Who does not need to know more about conservation and all this one word stands for? The picture of much conservation effort in South Carolina is here in this modest volume of 134 pages written by some two score experts in all related fields and put together by J. M. Eleazer, Farm Columnist and Clemson College Extension Agent. (Two CBC members, Gordon Brown and Douglas Wade contributed.)

Written in an easy, understandable style, primarily for teachers to pass on to students, it is to be hoped that all Carolinians will read it and familiarize themselves with the major importance of saving what is left of our state's natural resources. This book would have been stronger if it had included a brief for setting aside "natural areas." This was the most serious omission.

Our Land is Our Life contains seven chapters covering a brief resume of outmoded conservation practices, their effect on land and water in contrast to the efforts and programs of today; then a chapter each on soil, water, forests, wildlife, minerals and a summing up of the progress that has been made in South Carolina. A suggested but not too satisfactory reading list is appended. At the end of each chapter are suggested activities and lists of questions for use by teachers and nature leaders. Here is a book that could profitably be used in youth organizations. Both boys and girls should learn the lessons it teaches early in life.

There are many photographs in black and white, admirably illustrating the text.

Price $1.50 plus 13¢ postage. This unique book can be purchased from R. L. Bryan Co., Columbia, S. C.—K.C.S.

The Bird Book—Hausman, Leon A., Arco Publishing Co., New York, 160 pages, 362 black and white illustrations, 16 pages Audubon color prints, indexed, May 1955. $2.50.

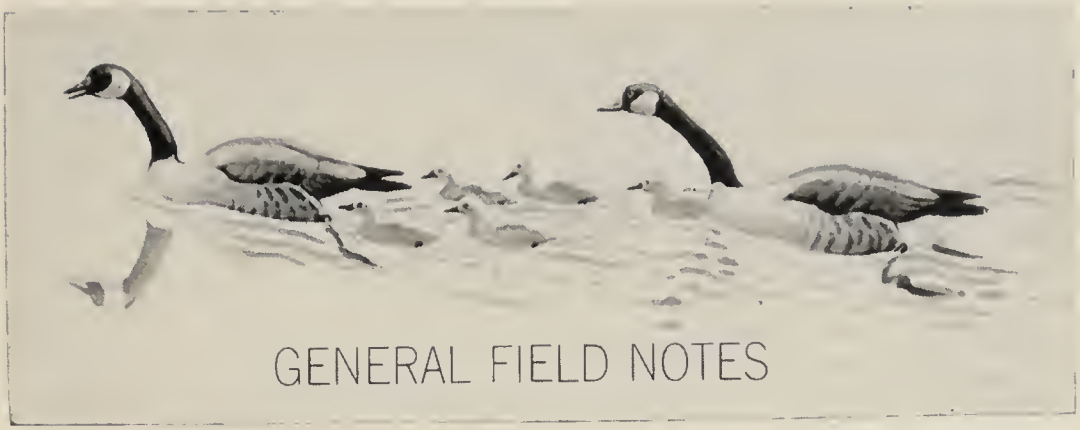
Dr. Hausman has produced an excellent field guide for beginners at a low price, which should make it a popular introduction to bird life. It is not a pocket manual, but it is light in weight and can be carried easily for ready reference on motor trips.

The author, who teaches ornithology at Rutgers University, describes one member of each bird family, with the idea that recognition of birds is expedited if the families are learned first.

The captions for the Laughing Gull and the Common Tern on page 11 are reversed. On page 143, Dr. Hausman says of the Painted Bunting, "Look for this brilliant bird in the chaparral country of the west, and in cypress swamps." Its habitat along the Carolina seacoast is not mentioned.

The book contains numerous line drawings and photographs (including one by CBC's Jack Dermid) of 300 birds common to the United States; descriptions of plumage; song and habits; and a section of 16 Audubon bird paintings in color, which may be cut out and framed. A good index completes the volume.—ROBERT OVERING

North American Birds of Prey by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., has not yet been received by the editor for full review. But in prospect of fall activities along the hawk flyways, we feel that many CBC members will wish to own this new book. It will contain 40 plates in full color by Allan Brooks on the kites, vultures, accipiters, buteos, eagles, ospreys, caracaras, falcons, and owls. Roger Tory Peterson has done the identification silhouettes. Harper & Bros. will release this book in October at a probable price of $5.00 —K.C.S.



GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Distribution of species and populations were certainly abnormal during this past spring and summer in the Carolinas. Some predictions based upon the hard winter and the very cool June were regretted. Evening Grosbeaks that found a meager supply of natural food stayed as long, and in greater numbers than during the spring of '52 when natural food was plentiful. Dickcissels showed up in several places and nested in central North Carolina. More data to study and more study per datum is our need.

Evening Grosbeaks.—The 1954-55 irruption of Evening Grosbeaks into the southeast differed from that of the winter of 1951-52 (*Chat* 16 (1): 30) principally in depth of penetration. The southernmost point reached this past winter, of which we have a record, was North Augusta, S. C. (apprx., latitude 33.5° N). Also, at least four communities in S. C., reported grosbeaks this time, whereas there was but one occurrence in that state (Greenville) three winters ago. The recent flight was first noted Nov. 25, at Chapel Hill, N. C., and the last bird seen, a single female, was at Raleigh, May 11. In the '51-'52 flight they reached Greenville, S. C., Nov. 18, and remained until May 7 at Chapel Hill, N. C. (That was also a single female.)

Actually, the grosbeaks came into the region this past winter in three groups. The first, Nov. 25, the second, Christmas week, and the third in mid-January. After this, observations were fairly continuous in upper N. C., into May. The last male reported was in Rocky Mount, May 5. Also in this recent flight the birds reached the coast (Wilmington, N. C., 34.3° N). In the earlier flight they were not reported nearer than 70 miles to the coast. The total number of grosbeaks wintering in the area must have been greater this past winter than during the previous flight. Reporting, however, was spotty as interest waned.

With their noise and appetites for sunflower seed, hospitality and larder were sorely tried. The following experiences with the '54-'55 visitation are taken from notes furnished by T. L. Quay who watched their stay in Raleigh:

"Evening Grosbeaks were in Raleigh in large numbers from January to May, 1955. They fed at feeding stations all over central, west, and north Raleigh. Conservatively estimated there were upward to 1000 birds distributed among 25 or more places.

"The percentage of full-plumaged adult males was from 20 to 35 percent throughout. No separation was made between females and first winter males. No moulting from first-winter to breeding plumage was noticed. At my station, the figures and dates were: Jan. 20, 2 females. This was the day following the 11 inch snow; Feb. 4, 2; 10th., 7; 18th., 10; and Feb. 25th., 12. Mar. 6, 20 (7 of them males, two of which remained until 3:20 p.m. in the rain). Mar. 9, 30; Mar. 15, 45 on feeder, 15 in trees; Mar. 26 to 28 (hard freeze) birds remained. In Feb., and early Mar., the birds fed from a half-hour after first light until noon, but by Mar. 30, they were staying at feeder until 1:30 p.m. Apr., 17 to 22, there were up to 75 around, usually 15 to 40 on the feeder at one time, and more in the pine and maple trees in the yard. There was continual shifting back and forth between feeder and trees and between my yard and the wooded stream bottom 200 ft. away. By Apr., 22, they were staying to feed until 2:00 p.m., with a few remaining until 5:00 p.m. On May 5, 40 to 70 were present; May 6, 30; 7th., 25; 9th., 7; 10th., 5; and May 11th., 1.

"Squabbling and beak tusseling increased in late April. Several courtship displays and flights were seen then. The birds roosted in some unknown place to the north of our place. Seven individuals at my feeder had combinations of aluminum or aluminum and colored leg bands. On Apr. 30, I collected one of these banded birds—an adult female. The band bore the No. 53-10266. [*From F. & W. Service records, courtesy of Chandler Robbins, this band was placed Apr. 26, 1953, at Lexington, Mass., by Parker C. Reed.—Dept. Editor.*] Most of the banded birds seen during March and early April, were not seen later. The bird seen May 11 carried a band on its left leg.

"I fed 140 pounds of sunflower seed. Increased quantities of feed brought more birds. They would not take shelled salted peanuts. Nor would they take corn, wheat, cracked corn, or small seeds. They were not seen to take natural foods."

Space only permits listing the localities where grosbeaks were seen. We are grateful for the notes contributed. In North Carolina: Ashville, Black Mt. Gap, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Elkin, Fayetteville, Henderson, Lenoir, Newfound Gap, New London, North Wilkesboro, Pinnacle Gap, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Troy, Tryon, Tuxedo and Wilmington. In South Carolina: Columbia [Seen until Apr. 26—Charles Simons], Eastover, North Augusta, Swansea.—*Dept. Editor.*

Breeding Dickcissels at Winston-Salem.—On the afternoon of May 22, 1955, my husband and I were birding along one of the roads of the Forsyth County Farm, which is about eight miles north of Winston-Salem. We had stopped the car to check several birds perching on a telephone wire by the road when it was my good fortune to observe a Dickcissel. The bird, an adult male in brilliant breeding plumage, was perching on the wire singing vigorously. I had observed these birds in the Mississippi valley in the summer of 1941 and immediately recognized it, though I was considerably surprised. When we approached the bird, it fluttered a few feet and lit again on the wire, continuing to sing. We were able to get within about fifteen feet as the bird did not seem inclined to leave. It was then that my husband found the female sitting in the wheat field beyond the road. In the light of this discovery, the actions of the male presented a more intriguing aspect. We began to look for a nest. However, it was a week later that James L. Stephenson found the nest in a meadow on the opposite side of the road from the wheat field. It was tucked away in a slight depression in the ground under a large plant of Queen Anne's Lace and was a flat cup with inside dimensions of 2½ inches diameter and 2 inches depth. It was lined with fine grasses, with the exterior composed of coarser grasses, wheat blades, and a few fragments of leaves. The nest contained

four clear-blue eggs. During the following week the pair of Dickcissels were observed by several CBC members from out of town. On June 8, to our distress, the birds were reported missing and the nest empty with no indication as to the predator. The nest was collected for the N. C. State Museum.—Doris C. Simpson, *Winston-Salem, N. C.*

[Prior to 1880, the Dickcissel was known as a fairly common breeder in the southeastern Atlantic area. Why it left has long been a subject for discussion.

In 1928 and '29 a breeding colony was located near Columbia, S. C., and at Raleigh, a pair was found in 1928. As far as we know, the nest described above is the first recorded nest in the area since 1928. We have, however, three interesting reports of occurrences of single males in North Carolina this 1955 summer: At Laurinburg, E. R. Lyon and family watched a male Dickcissel at their feeder almost continuously from Feb. 11 through Apr. 15th; Frances M. Covington, at Troy, had a male at her feeder on Apr. 16, 17, and part of the 18th; at Greensboro, Larry A. Crawford, Jr., and Thomas E. Street found two males about one mile north of Guilford College on Apr. 30. They were unable to find them again the following day.—*Dept. Editor.*]

Behavior: Sandpiper, Wren, Junco.—This is from Edward Kissam at Winston-Salem: "In a very hot noon sun, on the dry bed of Salem Lake, Sept. 28, 1955, I was watching two Pectoral Sandpipers feeding near a small run of water about two feet wide and one or two inches deep when two Solitary Sandpipers circled the area several times and settled down near the edge of the stream. The newcomers immediately began to run back and forth along the stream and to leap into the air, settling back in about the same place. I noticed that a brown, mottled, snake about two feet long was trying to crawl out of the stream but was being intimidated and herded back by the birds. [Identification of snake not made.—*Editor.*] This continued for about five minutes, with the snake trying many times to leave the water but each time being thwarted by the birds which would run along near the snake and flutter their wings but not actually peck it. While this was going on, the two Pectoral Sandpipers walked deliberately over to within about three feet of the fracas and stood watching, apparently quite interested. The snake finally gave up its efforts and lay still in the stream. After a minute of this, the four Sandpipers walked calmly away and began feeding. I watched from 25 feet with 7X binoculars."

This is from Mrs. A. B. Hurt, Jefferson, N. C., dated May 22, 1955: "A few weeks ago I found a Carolina Wren flying in the house. Some days later, in doing a little cleaning in our big living room, rarely used in winter, I saw, under the south window, leaves and sticks, and right up over the window, resting on the drapery rod a nearly completed bird nest! As I turned around a Carolina Wren came *down the chimney* with more building material. In a few minutes, she left by the same route. I saw this repeated a couple of times. Then I lost track of her until one day I ran the shade up and the wren popped out of the nest and scolded me soundly. Later, I brushed against the drapes and baby wrens poked their heads out, mouths wide open. Now they are gone. I think she got them out through a small hole in the corner of a broken window pane."

This is from Frank Meacham, State Museum, Raleigh: "The writer and some friends were attempting to open the fishing season Mar. 18, 1955, when this rather singular bit of behavior by a Slate-colored Junco was observed. At about 9:30 p.m., a bird tried to enter the lighted room of our camp on the banks of Black River near Curry (Pender County) N. C. One of the party went to the window and opened it, and the junco, appearing unafraid, came in and spent the night. It left early in the morning. An off-handed explanation is offered that perhaps an owl was chasing the junco and man created less fear than the owl." [Such an "hypothesis" would indicate the bird had the ability to reason or discern relative values. There must be another explanation.—D.E.W.,*Editor.*]

Depredation at a Breeding Colony.—This spring on May 1, Edwin Blitch and I visited Penny Dam, the beautiful backwater deep in the woods of Fairlawn Plantation in Charleston County, where White Ibises were first found nesting in South Carolina (1922). We counted more than 150 nests of Little Blue Herons; about 30 nests of Black-crowned Night Herons; 15 nests of the Common Egret; 18 nests of the Anhinga, and a half dozen nests of Snowy Egrets. There were also nests of Prothonotary Warblers.

Some of the nests were in the final stages of construction, but the majority held eggs. On May 8, we again visited the backwater and as we reached the bank we sensed something wrong. Working from our boat we found nest after nest empty. The dark water was littered with feathers and broken egg shells. Those eggs remaining in the nests were punctured; large gaping holes in their sides.

As we rounded a turn in the backwater, half a dozen crows, emitting raucous caws, flew from several low nests. They were the culprits.

The scene was one of desolation. We found that the Anhingas had been wiped out and only a handful of the Black-crowned and Little Blues nests remained intact. We had seen depredation wrought by crows, but never on so large a scale. Here, more than 200 nests had been raided and an estimated 600 eggs gobbled up.

We revisited the site May 25th. The hardy Anhingas were rebuilding. A few of the other nests held young. The crows were still cawing from the large trees that border the water course.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., June 25, 1955.*

European Widgeon at North Wilkesboro.—On April 24, 1955, a European Widgeon was seen on Reddies' River, one mile north of North Wilkesboro, N. C. It was at the upper end of the pond formed by the dam which provides the town's water supply. The bird was observed through 7X50 binoculars at a distance of 100 yards. Gray back and reddish-brown head and buffy crown were plainly seen. Sitting on the water close to shore, the bird remained quiet for several minutes. When I attempted to approach nearer, the bird took off and was not seen again.—WENDELL P. SMITH, *North Wilkesboro, N. C. July 7, 1955*

European Teal at Pea Island Refuge.—Writing from Norfolk, Va., Apr. 11, P. W. Sykes reports that while on a birding trip on Apr. 3, 1955, he, F. C. Richardson, and P. Duliney saw a European Teal *(Anas crecca)*. "The bird was seen near the Oregon Inlet Coast Guard Station, just inside the Pea Island Refuge, with a group of Green-winged Teal and a couple of Baldpates. There was an excellent comparison of the size and markings of the European Teal with those of the Green-winged Teal. The white stripe on the side was very distinct. The bird was seen in good light with 7x35 binoculars." The European Teal is accidental along the eastern coast of the United States. There are very few records for either of the Carolinas. —*Dept. Ed.*

Florida Gallinule in the Great Smokies.—In coming down from Newfound Gap to Cherokee, on the North Carolina side of the Smokies (Hwy. 441) on Apr. 28, 1955, and while still at an altitude of about 4500 ft. I saw a large slate-colored bird dead on the highway. Not being able to identify it while passing, I got out of my car and found that it was a Florida Gallinule. The bird, while still very fresh, was in bad shape, having been squashed.—ELLISON A. WILLIAMS, *Charleston, S. C.*

Grounded Starlings.—Rocky Mount, N. C., Aug. 27, 1954. For the past several weeks a flock of thousands of Starlings, with a few hundred grackles, have been using some twenty oaks and a few pines as a night roost over on the Edgecombe County side of town. Ed Vann, who lives on one of the lots they frequent, told me of an unusual observation he made on Aug. 2nd. That night just after sundown, there blew up quite a storm, knocking out electric lines and blowing over trees. He tried to beat the rain home but when he reached his drive it was raining so hard he decided to wait in his car a while. A bird struck his car and he was able to see, as lightning flashed, that

the starlings had come out of the trees and were covering the lawn under the trees. When he was finally able to run to the house he had to be careful to avoid stepping on some of them. After the storm the birds were in the trees again. Or so he presumed. They were not on the ground.—J. W. E. JOYNER. (E. R. Lyon, at Laurinburg, Dec. 9, 1954, witnessed a somewhat similar performance by Red-winged Blackbirds "Thousands and thousands" of them were perched on tall rush stalks when a light spatter of rain began. With a loud "swooch" they went down into the grass and out of sight. A little later they were up on the stalks again.—*Dept. Ed.*).

Winter Record of an Indigo Bunting.—An extended wintertime visit of an Indigo Bunting to a feeding station on the lower South Carolina coast was reported by Mrs. Paul L. Atwood. The bird, a moulting male, appeared at her feeder on Edisto Island, Colleton Co., on Dec. 31, '54, and was watched daily through Jan. 6, '55. Mrs. Atwood's detailed description of the bird's plumage and behavior follows, in part: Color mottled brown and peacock blue. The head, back and wings were a soft brownish color, the top of the head being a little darker. There was blue on the shoulders and the wing edges were blue. Also, the tail was blue with darker blue edges. The breast was mottled (faintly striped or speckled) brown and blue (it actually appeared brown *on* blue) with a large spot of brilliant blue showing through the center of the breast. When the wings were open the back underneath seemed blue. When the wind ruffled its feathers, they appeared brown on the ends and blue underneath. The bill was light in color. The legs were dark, the eyes, black. At first it ate on the ground but during the last few days of its stay, it ate at the feeder. It was not observed bathing or drinking. It was frequently in the company of White-throated Sparrows and occasionally it drove them away. The bunting was not as easily frightened as the White-throats were. Mrs. Atwood's report is unusual in two respects. The bird was behind schedule by months, in migration and in state of moult.—*Dept. Ed.*

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

Common Loon, 1, May 30, Inland Waterway near Wilmington, followed closely in boat by Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Appleberry and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Latimer, Jr. **Wood Ibis,** 1 flew up creek back of Pawley's Island (Georgetown Co.) June 29. The first noted this summer, Mrs. Clyde Sisson. **Old Squaw,** 1 male in company of female Bufflehead, Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, Mar. 5, Edward Kissam. **Black Rail,** 2, East Lake near Alligator River, Dare County, N. C., watched for short time on mud bank Apr. 9, an early date, Larry A. Crawford, Jr. **Mourning Dove,** nest, 2 eggs, 5 mi., S of Raleigh, Mar. 7, Murray Allen. **Ground Dove,** 1, 1½ mi. SW Bethel (Pitt Co.) N. C., May 1, Dr. and Mrs. B. McK. Johnson. **Western Kingbird,** 1 May 14, Wilmington, Appleberry *et al* on CBC field trip. **Eastern Phoebe,** 1, all during May at Bolivia, N. C., Clifford Comeau. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,** 1, May 15 and 29, North Wilkesboro, Wendell P. Smith. **Purple Martin,** 1, at Charleston Mar. 8, Ellison Williams. **Carolina Wren,** much reduced in numbers at Chapel Hill in comparison to last four years, W. L. McAtee. **Brown Thrasher,** nest with 3 eggs, Avondale (Charleston), Apr. 1, Maxwell Anderson [extremely early]. **Philadelphia Vireo,** 1, Apr. 25 and 28, North Wilkesboro, WPS. **Cape May Warblers** were strangely absent at North Wilkesboro, WPS. **Bay-breasted Warbler,** 1, in city yard, Greenville, S. C., May 30, J. B. Shuler, Jr. **Black-poll Warbler,** 2, at New London, May 5, John Trott; one, in city yard, Charlotte, May 23, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Norwood. **Prairie Warbler,** 1, singing Mar. 30, Charleston, E. B. Chamberlain. **Baltimore Oriole,** 1, Apr. 21, North Wilkesboro, WPS. **Blue Grosbeak,** 1, Charlotte city yard Apr. 25, JRN. **Purple Finches,** abundant at Elkin, last seen May 4, E. M. Hodel. **Pine Siskins,** plentiful over Piedmont N. C.; last at Charlotte, May 16, JRN. **Henslow's Sparrow,** 1, 4 mi. W of North Wilkesboro May 25, WPS. **Lark Sparrow,** 1, Aug 6, on rice banks near McClellanville, S. C. Presumed to be second record of this western species in the state. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edwards, Arthur Doyle, KCS. **White-crowned Sparrow,** 1, North Wilkesboro, May 2, WPS; 1, Elkin, May 8, EMH. [*All dates 1955.*]

Founded March 6, 1937 *Incorporated August 8, 1949*

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

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Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	$1.00	Contributing	$25.00
Supporting	$5.00	Affiliated Club	$2.00

Life—$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat* and the *Newsletter*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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Cover Photograph—Henslow's Sparrow by Ivan Tomkins

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It was a great inspiration to meet with the Tennessee Ornithological Society at Fontana for the fall field trip. They brought good will, good fellowship, good ornithologists and the Tennessee Warblers in numbers. We also had the Carolina Wren. Mr. Lawrence C. Kent, president, expressed appreciation of the invitation to his group, and it was a very happy occasion. He extended an invitation for us to meet with his group in the spring, which we would very much like to do.

In meeting with the Tennessee group, we learned of their conservation work and how they are striving to improve all phases. They are encouraged all along the line by Dr. Mayfield and Mr. Albert F. Ganier, outstanding ornithologists. The work being done by Mr. Arthur Stupka, Great Smoky Mountains park naturalist, and his commission is fine testimony of the increasing conservation program. It is good to know that all wildlife and vegetation is protected in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as well as in other parks throughout the United States.

In order to improve and spread the education and work of conservation, we need to continue to enroll new members in the work. Mr. Harry Davis states that we can carry 1500 members as economically as 1200. Let's get busy and add the extra numbers to our membership. I wish we could explain to the uninitiated how much fun it is to get out among the creations of nature and relax and enjoy it.

I hope we can start a campaign for endowment funds. Mr. Ellison Williams, 27 Limehouse St., Charleston, S. C., will welcome all funds. Wouldn't you like to make a contribution in memory of some loved one? Think about it.

Our mid-winter meeting will be held at Bull's Island, or Mount Pleasant, S. C., and this should be a rewarding meeting so far as waterbirds are concerned. The annual meeting will be held in Charlotte with the Mecklenburg Bird Club in charge. The date is March 24 at the Barringer Hotel, and a fine program has already been planned. Be sure to make plans to attend. Mrs. G. C. Potter and Mrs. Hilda Gate Simons are working hard to have a good meeting.

I hope all regional leaders are working with their groups very successfully. Encouraging reports are reaching me. New members are being added to the local clubs and also to Carolina Bird Club.

It was quite a thrill to go to Newfound Gap from the Fontana Meeting and see the Crossbills. Miss Margaret Harper of Lenoir, took a box of salt and threw it on the ground and the birds came up and ate it. Mr. Stupka had given us information that they were there and could be seen without much delay.

I hope some concerted effort can be made in the future to protect migrating birds against ceilometers, where so many have been uselessly killed.

May W. Puett

THE BIRDS IN LAWSON'S "NEW VOYAGE TO CAROLINA", 1709

W. L. McAtee

When the early natural history of the Carolinas is considered, Mark Catesby, with his lavishly illustrated quartos of 1731 and 1743, is likely to be thought of as first in the field, but John Lawson preceded him in residence in the country and in publication on its natural history, and gave more attention to divisions of the subject other than birds. His work, published in London in 1709, was entitled "*A New Voyage to Carolina; Containing The Exact Description and Natural History of That Country: Together with the Present State thereof. And A Journal Of a Thousand Miles, Travel'd thro' several Nations of Indians. Giving a particular Account of their Customs, Manners, &c.*" It included 262 pp., one plate, and one folded map. He reviewed the agriculture of the country and presented annotated lists of the plants, mammals, "insects" (reptiles), birds, fish, and shellfish.

The period covered by his book was the years 1700 to 1708. He said, "I not only survey'd the Sea-Coast and those Parts which are already inhabited by the Christians, but likewise view'd a spatious Tract of Land, lying betwixt the Inhabitants and the Ledges of Mountains, from whence our noblest Rivers have their Rise, running towards the Ocean, where they water as pleasant a Country as any in Europe." [p. iv.]

There is only one journal of travel in the book, covering an expedition from Charleston to Bull's Island, then along the Santee and Catawba Rivers, South Carolina, and passing near the sites of the present Salisbury, High Point, and Hillsboro, North Carolina, thence eastward to the lower Pamlico River. The localities mentioned in the Journal have been checked with notes on the Indian Tribes he visited, in the Handbook of American Indians (U. S. Bureau of Ethnology, 4th impression, 1912). He left Charleston, December 28, 1700, but shortly thereafter, the dates in the Journal are hard to follow. One in the margin, "September 5, 1700", obviously is in error; it should be about January 11, 1701. Weather phenomena mentioned by him more or less corroborate the admittedly rough chronology I have worked out. Question marks indicate the tentative nature of some of the dates. The trip ended early in March 1701, and was in the neighborhood of 550 miles in length. The 1000 miles, claimed on the title-page, must have been calculated as following meandering of waterways and tortuosities of the trail incident to foot travel.

At Pamlico he noted, "being well receiv'd by the inhabitants, and pleas'd with the Goodness of the Country, we all resolv'd to continue." (p. 60.) This evidently was his headquarters and he said "I shall confine myself, in the ensuing Sheets, to give my reader a Description of that Part of the Country only, which lies betwixt Currituck and Cape-Fair [Fear] . . . And this is commonly call'd *North Carolina* (p. 61). Thus direct mention of South Carolina was confined to approximately the first half of the Journal, although observations made in that State were incorporated in the annotations to his bird lists. Lawson was killed by Indians in 1712.

Bulls Island, January 2, 1701. "These Parts being very well furnish'd with Shell Fish . . . and in the Season, good Plenty of Fowl, as Curlews, Gulls, Gannets, and Pellicans, besides Duck and Mallard, Geese, Swans, Teal, Widgeon, &c." (p. 9). Due to the probable presence of more than one species of several of the groups here named, only the gannet, duck and mallard (that is, what is now called simply Mallard), and the American Widgeon, are specifically identifiable.

Lower Santee River, January 4, 1701. He recorded Indians burning canebrakes as a means of taking game, including "Turkies", that is the Eastern Turkey.

In the neighborhood of the junction of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers to form the Santee. About January 10, 1701. "we pass'd by several large Savannah's . . . plentifully stor'd with Cranes, Geese, &c. and the adjacent Woods with great Flocks of Turkies." (p. 16). Probably Sandhill Cranes and Canada geese; and the Eastern Turkey.

Probably along the Congaree River, January 1701. The Santees gave us "barbacu'd Turkeys, Bear's Oil, and Venison." (p. 25). The next day "the *Indian* kill'd 15 Turkeys . . . there coming out of the Swamp (about Sun-rising) Flocks of these Fowl, containing several hundreds in a Gang, who feed upon the Acorns, it being most Oak that grow in those Quarters. (p. 26). Next morning, "our Guide kill'd more Turkeys . . . Some of the Turkeys which we eat, whilst we stay'd there, I believe, weigh'd no less than 40 Pounds." (p. 27). "These Congarees have abundance of Storks and Cranes in their Savannas. They take them before they can fly, and breed 'em as tame and familiar as a Dung-hill Fowl. They had a tame Crane at one of these Cabins, that was scarce less than six Foot in Height, his Head being round, with a shining natural Crimson Hue, which they all have." (p. 29). The estimate of height indicates this may have been a Whooping Crane; stork was probably merely an alternative word for the same birds.

Winjaw River, perhaps a headwater of what is now called Lynches River, which empties ultimately into Winyah Bay. January 29, 1701. "We saw several Flocks of Pigeons, Field-Fares, and Thrushes, much like those of *Europe*." (p. 42). Passenger pigeon, and American robin. In Catawba Indian country, Feb. 1, 1701? "we did not see one Partridge from the *Waterees* to this place, tho' my Spaniel-Bitch, which I had with me in this Voyage, had put up a great many before." (p. 44). Bobwhite.

Same country, the next day. We killed "in these Creeks, several Ducks of a strange kind, having a red Circle about their Eyes, like some Pigeons that I have seen, a Top-knot reaching from the Crown of their Heads, almost to the middle of their Backs, and abundance of Feathers of pretty Shades and Colours . . . Likewise, here is good store of Woodcocks, not so big as those in *England*, the feathers of the Breast being of a Carnation-Colour, exceeding ours for Delicacy of Food." (p. 44). Wood Duck and American Woodcock.

Same country, another day later. "We went to shoot Pigeons, which

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* Throughout this paper, quotations are often incomplete, but the most interesting parts of Lawson's matter are given. The reader must exercise his own judgment as to the credibility of some of the remarks.

were so numerous in these Parts, that you might see many millions in a Flock; they sometimes split off the Limbs of stout Oaks, and other Trees, upon which they roost o' Nights. You may find several *Indian* Towns, of not above 17 Houses, that have more than 100 Gallons of Pigeons Oil, or Fat; they using it with Pulse (p. 44), or Bread, as we do Butter, and making the Ground as white as a Sheet with their Dung. The *Indians* take a Light, and go among them in the Night, and bring away some thousands, killing them with long Poles, as they roost in the Trees. At this time of the Year, the Flocks, as they pass by, in great measure, obstruct the Light of the Day." (pp. 44-45).

North Carolina Bird Notes from the Journal

Farther on the way to Sapona Town which was near the present Salisbury, North Carolina. February 5, 1701? "At Night . . . we saw plenty of Turkies, but pearch'd upon such lofty Oaks, that our Guns would not kill them, tho' we shot very often, and our Guns were very good. Some of our Company shot several times, at one Turkey, before he would fly away, the Pieces being loaded with large Goose-shot" (p. 45).

Sapona, that is the Yadkin, River near Salisbury, N. C. "It is beautified by a numerous Train of Swans, and other sorts of Water-Fowl, not common, though extraordinary pleasing to the Eye." (p. 46). Whistling Swan. Same Feb. 9? He spoke of "The forward Spring". "the Indians brought in some Swans, and Geese, which we had our share of." (p. 48). Same Swan and in all probability, Canada Geese.

Keyauwee Indian Town, supposed to have been near the present High Point, Guilford County, N. C. Feb. 13? Wild turkey mentioned as food. (p. 53).

Approaching Achonechy-Town on the Eno River about the present Hillsboro, Orange County, N. C. Feb. 17? "great Gangs of Turkies." (p. 55).

Leaving that town and being stopped by a freshet in the Eno River. Feb. 23? Several Turkeys were killed. (p. 58).

End of the Journal, Pampticough (Pamlico) River, March 3, 1701.

Lower Cape Fear River, N. C. (October 12-December 3, ? 1701. "the Woods stor'd every where, with great Numbers of Deer and Turkies, we never going on Shoar, but we saw of each Sort; as also great Store of Partridges, Cranes, and Conies, in several Places . . . Also in the River we saw great Store of Ducks, Teal, Widgeon; and in the Woods, great Flocks of Parrakeeto's." (p. 67). "In that time, as our Business call'd us up and down the River and Branches, we kill'd of wild Fowl, 4 Swans, 10 Geese, 29 Cranes, 10 Turkies, 40 Ducks and Mallards, 3 dozen of Parrakeeto's, and 6 dozen of other small Fowls, as Curlues and Plover, *&c.*" (p. 73). From this inventory we are assured of the presence at that locality and time of the following species of birds: Eastern Turkey, Bobwhite, Sandhill Crane, Carolina Paroquet, Whistling Swan and the Mallard Duck.

In a section on the natural history of Carolina, he says, "This is all that at present I shall mention, touching the *Insects* (reptiles), and so go on to give an account of the Fowls and Birds, that are properly found in Carolina, which are these:"

Birds of Carolina

[A list, pp. 135-137, followed by text, upon which we comment]

Bald-Eagle. Correctly named, with nearly a page of description of appear-

ance and habits, from which we quote: "The bald Eagle Attends the Gunners in Winter, with all the Obsequiousness imaginable, and when he shoots and kills any Fowl, the Eagle surely comes in for his Bird; and besides, those that are wounded, and escape the Fowler, fall to the Eagle's share. He is an excellent Artist at stealing young Pigs, which Prey he carries alive to his nest, at which time the poor Pig makes such a Noise over Head, that Strangers that have heard them cry, and not seen the Bird and his Prey, have thought there were Flying Sows and Pigs in that Country." (p. 137).

Gray Eagle, doubtless the young of the Bald Eagle. (p. 137).

Fishing-Hawk, the Osprey, which Lawson says "is the Eagle's Jackal, which most commonly (though not always) takes his Prey for him." (p. 137).

Turkey-Buzzard. He does not distinguish the species now so-called, from the Black Vulture. (p. 138).

Herring-tail'd Hawk, the Swallow-tailed Kite. "His Prey is chiefly on Snakes, and will kill the biggest we have, with a great deal of Dexterity and Ease." (p. 138).

Goshawks. As he said, "Goshawks are very plentiful in *Carolina*." (p. 138), the species he meant is not that so-called at the present day.

Falcon, apparently the Peregrine Falcon or Duck Hawk. "I believe they have their Abode and Nest among the Mountains", he correctly reported. (p. 138).

Merlin, possibly an *Accipiter*, but not identifiable to species. (p. 138).

Sparrow-Hawk, mention of "a blackish Hood by his Eyes," indicates the same bird we now call Sparrow Hawk. (p. 138).

Hobbies, may have been Pigeon Hawks, but the record is uncertain. (p. 139).

Ring-Tail, the Marsh Hawk. (p. 139).

Ravens, the Northern Raven. "I have not seen above six in eight Years time." (p. 139).

Crows, there were two species in his territory, so we can not attach a specific name here. (p. 139).

Black-Birds (two sorts), the descriptions are very imperfect, but it is certain he saw the Red-winged Blackbird. (p. 139).

Bunting-Larks (two sorts), unidentifiable. (p. 139).

Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse. (p. 139).

Woodcock, the American Woodcock. When we read "that their Breast is of a Carnation Colour", we must recall that an old meaning of that phrase was "flesh color". When he added "they make a Noise (when they are on the Wing) like the Bells about a Hawk's Legs" (p. 139), he gave an original impression of the flight song that has drawn the ardent attention of some of our best ornithologists.

Snipes. The American or Wilson's Snipe. (p. 140).

Partridge. Bobwhite. "They are . . . great Destroyers of the Pease in Plantations; wherefore, they set Traps, and catch many of them . . . They might be easily transported to any Place, because they take to eating, after caught." (p. 140).

Moorhen, Unidentifiable; hearsay evidence with European overtones.

Jay. Blue jay. "Jays are here common, and very mischievous, in devouring our Fruit, and spoiling more than they eat." (p. 140).

[To be continued in a later issue.—Ed.]

ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.

North American Birds of Prey. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., based upon and supplementary to *The Hawks of North America* by John Bichard May, Harper & Bros., N. Y., 1955, under the sponsorship of the National Audubon Society. 225 pages, color plates by Allan Brooks and others, with black and white plates by Roger Tory Peterson. $5.00. Foreword by Peterson gives a brief account of the decline of raptores "of all birds the finest . . . like masterworks fo art". He reemphasizes that the day has been long ripe for men to learn to protect birds of prey "in the new light shed by recent ecological research", lest they be eliminated from the earth for all time.

Surely, first of all, the author had in mind the great hope that the rewriting of May's *The Hawks of North America* would help to spread the need of protection of raptores all over the continent. **The problem of getting such a volume into the hands of those people who need to know the facts, of course remains major and uppermost.** Here is the text with which at least every member of CBC could not only inform himself but use in helping to educate others. Birds of prey have a fundamental place in the balance of wildlife communities.

Sprunt's introduction is magnificent. It is a thorough discussion of the critical position in which man has placed the birds of prey. Sportsmen were once among their worst enemies and many still are. Some are beginning to change. Ducks Unlimited, for example, makes this significant statement. "Unless any of them [hawks] are doing harm to you—let them go their way in peace. They have their place in Nature and have their appeal to all those who appreciate beauty and adaption to their mode of life. Do not allow your sympathies for their prey to turn your heart and hand against them. There is more in this Predator-Prey relationship than meets the eye. Dame Nature fitted them for their role and she is a wise old Dame and knows what she is doing. Don't forget that you, Mr. Man, are the greatest predator of them all, and a wanton destroyer if ever there was one."

The design of the book *North American Birds of Prey* is improved, pinpointing May's prose style. Each species is given with its generic name, local name or names, a detailed description, nesting data, range and a brief history of the species, bringing up to date the 20-year period since May's publication in 1935. Sprunt adds owls to May's list of birds of prey. The colored plates do not compare with those in the older volume, although they are still excellent. An appendix gives the history by Kenneth Morrison, of the development of legal protection of birds of prey in Canada and the U. S.

Bird Houses, Baths and Feeding Shelters. Edmund J. Sawyer, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. 50¢. This little 36 page bulletin in its fifth edition this summer, is a gem! Full of houses the right kind for the right species, some illustrated in line drawings, or sketched to scale, information on the best kinds of materials for construction and where to place such houses. A paragraph or two on each of the species, not forgetting the charm and aesthetic value of attracting birds to your home, enriching your life in the doing; interesting discussions of bird baths and food stations, completes the pamphlet. Well worth the price. One other item which might be added in a future revision is a discussion and listing of trees and shrubbery for suggested planting which furnish natural food for birds.—*Reviews by the Editor.*

THE BREEDING BIRD CENSUS

Wendell P. Smith

My experience with population studies goes back to the inception of the breeding bird census by the U. S. Biological Survey, now U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The method then used was to count the singing males on a known area, being careful to eliminate any frequenting the edges but not actually nesting within the prescribed limits. This was discontinued after a few years but later was reinstituted under the auspices of *Audubon Magazine* and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For fifteen years I submitted censuses from different habitats in Vermont and these were published in *Audubon Field Notes*. When I decided to move to North Carolina, I anticipated with pleasure continuing the same work here. I have taken censuses in two different habitats in the two seasons I have been here, and have a new interest in new species; a very different plant life; also there are many other new aspects of environment.

It is difficult to find a uniform habitat but I decided to take an upland mixed forest on the edge of town (North Wilkesboro). White and Yellow Pine; White, Post, Red, Spanish, Scarlet, Black, and Black Jack Oak; Pignut and Shagbark Hickory; Blue Beech; Beech; Tulip; Sassafras; Sycamore; Red-Bud; Holly; Red Maple; Flowering Dogwood; Black Gum; Sourwood; Blue Ash and Black Willow were among the trees. Shrubs included Blackberries; Poison Ivy; Woodbine; Purple Azalea; Flame-colored Azalea; Great Laurel; Mountain Laurel and Arrowwood. Among plants especially attractive to birds I noted Pokeweed and Blue Cohosh.

The tract was delimited by paths and wood roads and was paced 2400 x 800 feet containing approximately forty acres. A brook flowed through a ravine in the center of the tract and the sides rose in steep slopes from fifty to one hundred feet. Part of the area had been timbered off within two years and the larger trees removed. Much brush covered the ground in places. The remainder of the area was covered with large second growth, some of the trees two to three feet in diameter.

The present requirements of a breeding bird count are to establish the "residence" of territorial males. I secured some evidence other than singing such as scolding of a pair in restricted territory; an individual carrying nesting material; the birds carrying food; or hearing and seeing the young just before or just after leaving the nest. Thirty to thirty-five hours were spent in determining the number present.

In 1954 the Acadian Flycatcher, Oven-bird and Red-eyed Towhee led with five each. Then followed Red-eyed Vireo and Cardinal with four. In 1955 the Cardinal led with six and then came Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo and Oven-bird with five each. In 1954 the Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Catbird, American Robin, Black and White Warbler, Parula Warbler, Purple Grackle, Cowbird and Scarlet Tanager were represented by two. In 1955 the Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren increased to three while the Mourning Dove increased from one to two. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Hooded Warbler were constant with three in both seasons. One Bob-white was present in 1954 but absent the second season as were the two Cowbirds. Yellow-billed

Cuckoo, Screech Owl and Pine Warbler were additions of 1955. Species represented by one in both seasons were Whip-poor-will, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-throat, American Redstart and Indigo Bunting. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Red-bellied Woodpecker, present in 1954, were apparently absent in 1955 and Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius alticola*), Goldfinch and Song Sparrow nested outside the area in 1955. The total population of the tract in 1954 was 71 territorial males of 36 species. In 1955 there were 73 males of 34 species. I was especially pleased with a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers nesting on the tract whose status in 1954 had been only an occasional visitor.

My second count was made on a field, partly uncultivated, in 1954. It contained eighteen acres paced 1900 x 400 feet. A creek formed the boundary on one side and fences and hedgerows on the others. A small brook crossed one end and an old drainage ditch the other. The streams, ditch and fences had a margin of shrubbery with a few trees. River Birch, Sycamore, and Smooth Alder with some cane at one end composed the major part of the larger vegetation. Two acres of corn with many kernels scattered on the ground, 12 acres in hay and three uncultivated was its status in 1954. In 1955 the three acres were in winter wheat, unharvested, and the corn land was in oats. The greater part of the land was level but some three acres were fifty feet higher, part of it sloping upward and part making the transition in a steep bank.

From fifteen to twenty hours were spent on this tract in making the count. In 1954 the Field Sparrow led with four. Then followed the Yellow-throat with three; Brown Thrasher, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird and Cardinal with two; The following were represented by one: Bob-white, Flicker, Carolina Wren, Catbird, American Robin, Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Purple Grackle, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Grasshopper Sparrow and Song Sparrow. Total number, thirty of twenty-one species. In 1955 Cardinal and Field Sparrow led with five and were followed by the Yellow-throat and Song Sparrow with three. Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat and Indigo Bunting were represented by two while those species with one were Green Heron, Bob-white, Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Bluebird, Starling, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird and Purple Grackle. In all there were thirty-two territorial males of seventeen species.

There were visitors from adjoining territory to both areas. Thirteen males of twelve species frequented the field. Of species not resident on the tract, there were Phoebe, Rough-winged Swallow, Mockingbird, Crow, White-eyed Vireo and House Wren. Eighteen males of thirteen species came to the woodland tract. Only four species were not found within the area. These were Broad-winged Hawk, Bob-white, Mountain Vireo and Prairie Warbler.

Although classified as "territorial males" good evidence exists for nesting. Presumably, as complete evidence of successful breeding did not exist for all, the status assigned is safer.

A mere cataloging of the species and a physical description of the area and a list of plant names does not do justice to the business of census taking. There is the challenge of difficulty, for some individuals and some species carefully conceal nesting activities. Much waiting and careful watch-

ing is necessary in such cases. Perhaps the chief pleasure is coming to know intensively a small area. Comprehended in this is the emergence of leaves in spring and the blooming of flowers; the changes in aspect that come with clouds or sunshine and the changes from hour to hour that come from the incidence of sunlight. My memory is full of scenes and I cannot forbear mentioning a few. One late spring morning I came in sight of the Mountain Laurel thicket to behold it in full bloom, one great mass of pink. This in itself seemed rewarding but at that instant a male Hooded Warbler appeared for a moment and the yellow breast and black hood in contrast thrilled me with its beauty. There was spring with the forest floor gay with Trillium and Iris. Flowering Dogwood, Redbud, Tulip Tree, Laurel, Azalea and Rhododendron, each contributing its special form of loveliness and making every coverage of unusual interest.

Perhaps a few words regarding a Vermont nesting tract. I took a fifty acre tract of woodland ravaged by the 1938 hurricane. It also was mixed woods but different from the North Carolina tract. In Vermont only Red and White Oaks were present. White Pine was the only conifer common to both tracts. Red Maple was present in both and some Beech. Vermont woods contained Canoe Birch, Sugar Maple, White Ash and Hemlock. The shrubbery there was Witch Hazel, Mountain and Striped Maple and Wicopy.

Many species were common to both areas or, at least only subspecifically different. Barred Owl, Flicker, Pileated, Hairy, Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Chickadee (Black-capped in one case, Carolina in the other), Robin, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Black and White and Parula Warblers, Yellow-throat, Oven-bird, Redstart and Song Sparrow. Also Crested Flycatcher, Wood Pewee and Scarlet Tanager. The Vermont tract had Ruffed Grouse, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Canada Warblers; Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow. The Whip-poor-will nested on both tracts and the Solitary Vireo *(Vireo solitarius solitarius)* in Vermont and the Solitary Vireo *(Vireo solitarius alticola)* in North Carolina.

The most abundant species in the Vermont area varied according to conditions. Before the hurricane, with an abundance of large Hemlocks, the Blackburnian Warbler was first with from eight to eleven pairs. Following the hurricane after a few years of reforestation, the Robin and Canada Warbler led with thirteen pairs each. With the growth of raspberries on the denuded areas, from two to three pairs of Mourning Warblers nested for several years but when larger growth choked the raspberries, the warblers disappeared. Changes could apparently be correlated with changes in the vegetation. Woodpeckers and flycatchers increased with the decay of the hurricane debris and decreased as the brush became humus.

The early morning chorus was as rewarding in North Carolina as in Vermont but differed in composition. In Vermont songs of Hermit Thrush and Veery were its finest features although the antiphonal effect of White-throated Sparrows in early morning song on the denuded parts was particularly interesting. Wherever taken, the breeding census is one of the most enjoyable activities of the bird student's year.—*September, 1955*

CHRISTMAS COUNTING IN WILMINGTON, N. C.

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY

What's the use of what is done
If in the doing there be no fun.

That is my motto and from the very first the Wilmington Christmas Count has always been fun.

When asked to write this article I hestitated for fear it might seem presumptuous but then I realized that perhaps those who had never been to Wilmington might really be interested in knowing something about an area that could come up with such consistently high counts each year. You will note from the following table that we started low and climbed gradually as we learned more about identification and became more familiar with our territory and its possibilities.

1945	61	1950	147
1946	97	1951	141
1947	115	1952	142
1948	139	1953	162
1949	136	1954	163

There are a number of reasons for our high counts:

1—A wide variety of habitats to attract many species. This area seems to be on the dividing line between north and south. The climate is temperate. There is always open water, plenty of berries and insects for food and plenty of cover. There are practically all types of habitat except mountain and desert and if the county keeps on with its present drainage program we may soon have some desert. There are pine barrens, savannahs, ocean beaches; rivers, lakes, creeks, ponds, sounds, salt and freshwater marshes; abandoned and cultivated fields; cypress swamps; peat bogs and sand hills.

2—Outside help. First our own North Carolina boys, then boys from other states and later, adult birders from other parts of the country who had become curious about the area have come to help.

3—No competitive spirit in the count. Our only goal is to determine what species are in the area. There is no group competition. We think we have the best birding territory in the United States and we are always happy and proud when we can prove it but our target is the potential of the area itself and not someone else's record. We believe that in a favorable year with sufficient expert coverage (which we have never had) a total of 200 would not be impossible and that is our goal.

4—The integrity of our observers. Each participant is required to turn in a written, signed description of any unusual species. If the observer is one whose ability is known he or she will be questioned later and if the written statement and the verbal discussion are satisfactory the record will be included. If the observer is new and a check the next day fails to confirm the report our system is explained and the record is placed on the hypothetical list for future confirmation. In order to avoid embarrassing anyone in public a record is sometimes accepted at the tally supper but omitted in the final count.

5—The co-operative spirit of the observers. They work cheerfully wherever placed. Each person works the greater part of the day where his knowledge will be most useful. Then he may go somewhere else if he wants to. For instance—a visiting birder who is most familiar with land birds will work the early part of the day among land birds. Then he is moved to a shore bird area so that his trip may be both useful and enjoyable.

6—Using the same organizer and compiler each year. This gives a sense of unity as such a person is familiar with the territory and the capabilities of each observer. This method also insures more uniform and accurate records and reports.

7—**Preparation for the Count.** During the summer several of the local observers get together and decide on the date, a home where those who are interested but not active may gather and a place for the tally supper. In the fall we begin to check our old habitats to see if there have been any changes due to burning, clearing, etc. If a certain habitat of long standing has been destroyed we try to locate a similar one. We check these as often as possible and keep on the lookout for new ones that may have opened up. This spring many of our favorite spots were burned over and others were ruined by hurricanes so we will have to do a lot of relocating for the 1955 count.

In early December the compiler plots the entire census area on paper and makes up lists of the birds which may be found in each section, underlining those which might not be seen except in that particular spot. The underlined birds are the ones that are to be concentrated on. A list is given to the leader of each area group and he or she keeps and turns in the tally for that group.

On the night before the count the out-of-town birders come to my house. They are briefed on where they will work and what they may expect to find. Most of them try to get here as early as possible so that preliminary checks may be made. Each one gets all the instructions that night as to where he is to go and when and where to report for the tally.

Only trained observers are allowed on the actual count. Back in 1946 Tom Odum advised me to make and observe such a rule. He said the Christmas Count was no time for teaching. The only exceptions made are when a car driver is needed or a promising young student is used to keep the tally for a group. These people understand that they are not to talk and that no time will be spent in identifying birds for them but, of course, they may see and learn many new ones.

The other members of the club gather at the chosen home for the day. This is always a spot where both land and shore birds may be seen from the yard. Each person takes a picnic lunch and the hostess serves coffee and cake. They have a lot of fun, a chance to study birds if they want to and they join the working observers for supper and the tally.

To most of you this may seem very elementary but it works for us and if you have no better plan it may work for you.

—CBC—

REVISED RULES FOR CHRISTMAS COUNTS

The widespread popularity of the Christmas Count has created a real problem to the National Audubon Society in the matter of publication costs. After attempting voluntary contributions for several years, the decision has been made requiring a small payment by each participant in the counts. Beginning this present winter, the following rules will apply to all counts presented for publication in *Audubon Field Notes:*

1) Report forms supplied by *Audubon Field Notes* must be used.

2) The sum of fifty cents for each participant must be submitted along with the count.

3) Dawn to dusk counts (or longer) are preferred. Counts covering fewer than eight hours will not be printed.

4) Counts reaching National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y., after Jan. 15, will not be considered.

5) Count dates for this winter: Dec. 24 through Jan. 2.

PLEASE NOTE: The above applies only to counts submitted for publication in *Audubon Field Notes.* For publication in the *Chat,* the old rules still apply but the data must be sent to us promptly and observations of rare species or occurrences must be adequately supported. DO NOT send money for printing your counts in the *Chat.* We suggest *Chat* subscriptions for your friends as good use for it.—B.R.C.

GENERAL FIELD NOTES

Advisory Council: E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

Department Editor: B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Feeding of Certain Herons and Egrets Other Than Cattle Egret with Cattle—In the current watch being maintained in many parts of the East for the appearance of the Cattle Egret *(Bubulcus ibis ibis)* in localities where it has not yet occurred, it seems well to point out a very important phase of behavior on the part of certain others of this tribe in connection with proximity to cattle.

There appears to be a rather widespread belief that the Cattle Egret is the *only one* which feeds in close proximity to these animals. Statements to that effect have appeared in print, both in nationally known magazines and highly reputable ornithological periodicals. In one of the latter (May-August, 1955 issue) the author makes the following statement, in discussing the reasons for the Cattle Egret being overlooked in Florida for as long as it was—"observers who did not realize that no native egret normally stalks about in close association with cattle". As a matter of actual fact, the *exact opposite is true!* It was because of many observers DID know that white herons DO NORMALLY STALK ABOUT IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH CATTLE. The feeding of Snowy Egrets and immature Blue Herons in close proximity with cattle is such a commonplace in Florida, and elsewhere in the Southeast, that no particular attention was paid to it, and when other white herons (Cattle Egrets) appeared and did the same thing, they were simply overlooked. Not that this is to be construed as an alibi, for the writer is as much to blame as anybody else. For 14 years he has led the Audubon Wildlife Tours out of Okeechobee, Florida, and the fact that the Cattle Egret was there, and had been there, some time before he was aware of it, is, perhaps, inexcusable. None the less, the fact that for years, he had shown tour visitors white herons feeding with cattle and not stopped to put a glass on them if at any distance, may be advanced for a reason why *Bubulcus ibis ibis* was overlooked.

Before the Cattle Egret was reliably reported from South Carolina. the writer followed up several false alarms. These came from people who had seen white birds feeding among cows. In every case they proved to be either Snowy Egrets or Little Blue Herons, or both. The Cattle Egret has now appeared in South Carolina and in every one of the now known instances, other white herons were closely adjacent with the cattle. Now and then the Cattle Egret is reported as perching upon the backs of cows.

So it does, but the writer has seen many more Snowy Egrets so perched than he has Cattle Egrets! And his acquaintance with the latter species now runs into hundreds of individuals. Actually, among these only three were seen on cattle. Not that this means anything except the apparently little known fact that native egrets DO normally associate with cattle. Incidentally, the only other livestock the writer has ever seen attended by Cattle Egrets have been horses and, on one occasion, pigs.

So—in your search for the Cattle Egret do not by any means, ignore the above fact and be sure to examine the white herons you see with cattle with a critical eye.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 44, S. C.—July 26, 1955.*

Remarkable Flight of Wood Ibises.—Linville Hendren has contributed the following notes on the appearance in force of Wood Ibises *(Mycteria americana)* near Elkin, N. C. "On Thursday, June 23, 1955, a large flock of Wood Ibises settled near Elkin. I did not see the flock, but I did see one bird that was killed and one that was crippled in the wing. According to reports, they came in small flocks. The total number was estimated at 150 to 200. The local men and boys attempted to kill as many as possible. The site of this occurrence is about 5 miles northeast of Elkin. Other reports came of birds settling a mile or two to the northwest of this site. (Possibly some of the same ibises.) At both places several were killed. Reports indicate that there were 10 to 15 victims. Both birds I saw were immature. I made colored slides of the cripple. This cripple is now on a protected pond and seems to be in fair condition. It has fed twice on small fish offered to it. When I saw it this afternoon it was fairly close to a Great Blue Heron, which flew at our approach. The ibis walked slowly down the edge of the water. I watched it stand on one leg and slowly stir the mud with the other foot as it watched the water with head lowered and bill open. I did not see it strike. Excepting the injured or killed birds, the ibises were in the area but a few hours. Some were known to have left in a northwesterly direction when fired upon."

Since there have been so few records of Wood Ibis in North Carolina, and especially since Elkin is more than 200 miles inland and within 25 miles of the Virginia state line, we asked that the remains of one of the dead birds be obtained, if possible. Parts of "three immatures" were forwarded promptly. These were a head and two wings, all sun cured. The head certainly came from an immature Wood Ibis. The hair-like, sparce feathering is brownish in color. The length of the bill from nares to tip is 6.00 inches, rather than 8.00 inches as given by Chapman for the adult. The wings, the primaries and secondaries, are glossy black with a rich green cast, and with no trace of brown. Is this a second or third year bird?

Following closely upon the Elkin report, news came to Wood Ibises to the north of us. Chandler S. Robbins, in a note dated July 7, writes: "We have a flock of 15 or more Wood Ibises up here, the first Maryland record in over 50 years. They're not at the Refuge, but over at Gibson Island on the west shore of the Bay (25 miles south of Baltimore)." Also writing on July 7, Ellison Williams at Charleston calls attention to an item in the Tryon (N. C.) Bulletin just received by him on a "large white Florida ibis" seen at Tryon, in Polk County. According to the report, Andrew Law, Tryon, says (the bird) made the night hideous with its squawking. He finally took a shot in the air and it soon quieted down. In view of the other reports, it seems likely that the Tryon bird was also a Wood Ibis. Also, because of the large number of birds driven from Elkin, other observations will doubtless be reported.

Of interest because of possible influence upon these ibis flights, are the following weather data: Jacksonville, Fla., Coolest June since 1947, prevailing wind S to WSW. June 18 to 22: Charleston, S. C., coolest June since 1930, prevailing wind E to S. June 18 to 22: Raleigh, N. C., coolest June since beginning of record, 1887, prevailing wind NNE to SW, June 18 to 22.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C. July 10, 1955.*

Small Canada Geese.—In the past several years, from Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, a number of reports of sight observations

have been made of "small geese", with the thought that they were subspecies of *Branta c. canadensis*. The reports indicated they were exact duplicates of common Canada Geese but simply smaller. It is doubtful that such observations can be accepted as positive identification. Some of these birds had been trapped, shot, or found dead and even in hand seemed small, but when standard measurements were made, were nearly always *Branta c. canadensis*. Age, food and sex will cause variation of several pounds in weight, so usually this factor can be of little consideration.

There is no doubt that subspecies of the Canada Goose are present in the South Atlantic states as specimens have been collected over a number of years from this area. However, the professional Fish and Wildlife Service men who are on the job constantly, report them to be exceedingly uncommon. The same men all agree that sight records are extremely risky for identification. It is suggested that any collected Canada Goose believed to represent a smaller race, he submitted to the National Museum for firm identification.

Specimens from the Southeast Atlantic coast, now in the National Museum collection follow:

Collector	Location	Date
	Branta c. interior	
W. L. McAtee	N. C., Currituck Sound	Dec. 13, 1909
W. L. McAtee	N. C., Currituck Sound	Dec. 2, 1909
W. L. McAtee	N. C., Currituck Sound	Dec. 2, 1909
W. L. McAtee	N. C., Currituck Sound	Dec. 13, 1909
J. Weber	N. C., Portsmouth	Dec. 14, 1915
J. Weber	N. C., Portsmouth	Dec. 14, 1915
J. Weber	N. C., Portsmouth	Nov. 24, 1916
J. Weber	N. C., Portsmouth	Dec. 14, 1915
J. Weber	N. C., Portsmouth	Dec. 14, 1915
J. Riley	N. C., Currituck Sound	Nov. 24, 1898
J. Weber	N. C., Portsmouth	Dec. 14, 1915
H. Stoddard	Florida, Wakulla Co.	Nov. 14, 1954
H. Stoddard	Florida, Wakulla Co.	Nov. 18, 1954
W. Robinson	Virginia, Buckingham Co.	Dec. 28, 1900
	Branta c. leucopareia	
H. Stoddard	Florida, Wakulla Co.	Jan. 2, 1941
	Branta c. parvipes	
H. Stoddard	Georgia, Grady Co.	Mar. 8, 1937
W. McAtee	N. C., Currituck Sound	Nov. 25, 1909
H. Stoddard	Florida, Wakulla Co.	Apr. 22, 1945
	Branta c. Hutchinsii	
I. Hinckley	N. C., Crow Island	Nov. 21, 1882
L. Couch	N. C., Lake Mattamuskeet	Nov. 29, 1939
J. Mann	N. C., Hyde Co., Fairfield	Nov. 24, 1944
J. Steenis	N. C., Dare Co., Pea Island	Feb. 9, 1951
Other reports at hand:		
	Branta c. interior	
	Virginia, Prince Wm. Co.	
W. Cahoon	N. C., Lake Mattamuskeet	
W. Cahoon	N. C., Lake Mattamuskeet	
	Branta c. Hutchinsii	
J. Perkins	Virginia, Back Bay	Jan. 2, 1949
J. Perkins	Virginia, Back Bay	1943
J. Perkins	Virginia, Back Bay	
L. Turner	N. C., Pea Island	1955
W. Cahoon	N. C., Lake Mattamuskeet	
W. Cahoon	N. C., Ansonville (Gaddy's pond)	

Contributors to this study were Refuge Managers Jack Perkins, Back Bay; Louis Turner, Pea Island; Willie Gray Cahoon, Mattamuskeet; E. S.

Jaycocks, Cape Romain; Harris Womble, Savannah; and Paul Kreager, St. Marks. Also Dr. George Saunders, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta; Dr. John W. Aldrich, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta; Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., Thomasville, Ga.

Several small specimens collected by Horace West and the writer have all been identified as *Branta c. canadensis*.—Robert L. Wolff, *Greenville, N. C. April 10, 1955.*

A 1950 Bridled Tern Record for South Carolina.—A specimen of *Sterna anaethetus melanoptera* was found by John E. Gibbs' dog, "Whiskers", on the front beach of Sullivan's Island, S. C., Sept. 8, 1950. It proved to be an immature female in good plumage and it is now in my private collection. I believe this is the eighth record for South Carolina.

In this connection, the specimen recorded in the *Auk* (44:93, 1927) was a mummified adult in fine plumage that could not be preserved as a skin. It was eventually turned over to the Charleston Museum.

In *South Carolina Bird Life* there is recorded a specimen found by me on Sept. 7, 1935 on the Isle of Palms. This bird is an immature male and is also in my collection.—Edward von Siebold Dingle, *Middleburg Plantation, Huger, S. C., Sept. 1955.* (We are not sure that this is the eighth record for South Carolina. The Bridled Tern found on the Isle of Palms in 1952 by Alex and Sandy Sprunt and recorded in the *Chat*, (16, (4):98, 1952) was thought to be the seventh.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Early Whip-poor-will.—A male Whip-poor-will was taken alive in the Physics building on the North Carolina State College campus, Mar. 5, 1955 by Edward J. McCoy, one of my students in Ornithology. McCoy found the bird flying down a hallway at eight o'clock in the morning. The specimen is now in our college bird collection. This record is considerably earlier than the Mar. 16 date listed as earliest in *Birds of North Carolina*. On Mar. 25 we flushed several Whip-poor-wills in the daytime in the deciduous woods bordering Lake Raleigh.—T. L. Quay, *State College, Raleigh, N. C.*

Brown-headed Nuthatch Uses Nest-Box.—C. D. Beers reported (*Chat* 16 (4):78-80) the first known instance of a Brown-headed Nuthatch nesting in a man-made box, at Chapel Hill. A second instance of this species using a nest-box is herein recorded, this time for Raleigh.

The general nesting site is a dry, oak-pine hilltop in a surburban settlement along Western Boulevard in west Raleigh. This is a cut-over area practically lacking in dead trees or stumps and with relatively few bird boxes of any kind. During the early part of May, 1955, four Brown-headed Nuthatches noisily occupied the vicinity of the home of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Moreland. Between the 10th and the 19th this vicinity became the territory of one pair and by the 19th there were four eggs in the nest box which had been the focal point of the territorial disputing. Four eggs was the total clutch and incubation apparently began on the 19th. Three of the four eggs hatched on June 2, fourteen days later. The fourth egg did not hatch. On June 16, one nestling was killed when some predator, presumably a house cat, reached into the nest during the night. The Moreland's had heard the commotion, and found the entrance hole in the box plugged with nesting material, dragged from the inside. The adult nuthatches could not enter the nest in the morning to feed the young until the Morelands removed this plug. The remaining two nestlings were still in the nest but fully feathered and about ready to leave on June 25, after 23 days of nestling life. Thus this family of nuthatches was both smaller and had a longer nestling period than that of the Chapel Hill family (20 days). The Raleigh nesting was different from the Chapel Hill one also in that the adults in Raleigh did not occupy the nest and brood the young at night, at least not on the nights of June 16 and 24. This may account for their slower development.

The nest box was of pine board crating, painted white on the sides and green on the hinged roof. The box was 4″ x 5″ inside diameter and 8″ deep. The entrance hole was 1¼″ in diameter, placed 2″ from the top of

the box. The hole was six feet from the ground, the box nailed to a pine tree 15' from the house, facing west. The foundation nesting material was shredded cedar bark, on top of which the adult nuthatches had placed a covering of pine-seed wings. The Shortleaf Pine nest-tree had a ten-inch diameter hole, and the first limbs were three feet above the nest. The adult nuthatches were unexcited or unbothered by the numerous children and dogs in the neighborhood. T. L. QUAY, *State College, Raleigh, N. C.* [This nest is also interesting in respect to time. It was late enough to have been a second brood, although Brown-headed Nuthatches are said to raise but one brood in a season.—*Dept. Editor.*]

Behavior: Shrike.—Aug. 5; 8:00 a.m.; clear. While eating breakfast I glanced out of the window and saw a Loggerhead Shrike perched on a limb of a dead sweet gum tree, 10 feet from the house and about 8 feet from our feeding station. In a moment it flew to the ground between the feeder and the gum and picked up the body of a female House Sparrow, which it had apparently just killed, and returned to the tree. After wedging the sparrow's body in the fork of a branch the shrike began working at the neck with its beak and after much pulling, decapitated it. The body fell to the ground and the shrike retained the head. It then wedged the head in the same fork and proceeded to remove and eat the brains. Several House Sparrows and a female Cardinal watched in what seemed to be "morbid fascination" from about 5 feet above, in the same tree. The shrike made no move at these birds, nor did they attempt to molest it.

After finishing the brains, the shrike remained in the gum and a Blue Jay flew at it but was frightened off when it uttered a call and lunged at the Jay. Then a Mockingbird was driven away and the shrike dropped to the ground and picked up the body of the sparrow with its *feet* and returned to a branch of the gum, alighted on one foot, and after two attempts transferred the body from foot to beak, on the under side of the limb. Remaining perched only a short time, it then flew about a hundred yards to a wild cherry tree in another yard, the body of the sparrow still hanging from its beak. I did not see it again that day. It seemed to be more of a brownish color than the usual grey.—JOSEPH R. NORWOOD, *Charlotte, N. C,* (The coloring suggests immature plumage. The shrike's use of both beak and feet for carrying prey has been recorded often. In this case, the use of the beak for the longer haul may be significant.—*Dept. Ed.*)

LARK SPARROW. (*Chonaestes grammacus grammacus*) identified on rice banks near McClellanville, S. C. August 6, 1955. About 4:30 in the afternoon while driving across a rice marsh on a narrow one-track road, directly in front of the car, this sparrow was immediately recognized as different. It had a marked facial pattern with brown side patches and small white area on each side clearly visible, a striped crown, dark "stick-pin" on buffy breast, white tail feathers and a singular body movement while it fed on the ground unlike any other species of sparrow I'd ever seen.

Everybody yelped, grabbed for Peterson's, riffled to Page 219 and there it was our first Lark Sparrow. We all jumped out and watched it within 15-20 feet in excellent light as long as we wished with and without four pair of high-powered binoculars. We then followed it for 70-100 feet down the road as it alternately flew, showing the dark fan-shaped tail edged in white—and lit on the ground to feed.

This is presumed to be the fourth record for this western species in South Carolina, there being one noted in *South Carolina Bird Life* seen October 12 through 15, 1943 by Eugene Eisenmann, John Bull, Jr., and George Komorowski on Bull's Island, and another, also seen on Bull's Island, December 28, 1950 by Anna Hallock and on the following day by Tucker McCravy and recorded in *Audubon Field Notes*, 5:200, 1951.—MR. AND MRS. ROBERT EDWARDS, ARTHUR DOYLE, KAY SISSON. [This corrects the note in *Briefs for the Files*, (*Chat* 19, (3): 71, 1955)—*Ed.*]

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